MARVEL

EPIC COLLECTION

THE NEW MUTANTS

SUDDEN DEATH

SIMONSON • BLEVINS • BRIGMAN
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NEW MUTANTS

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"FLYING WILD!"

NEW MUTANTS #56, OCTOBER 1987
"SCAVENGER HUNT!"

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55
SEPT
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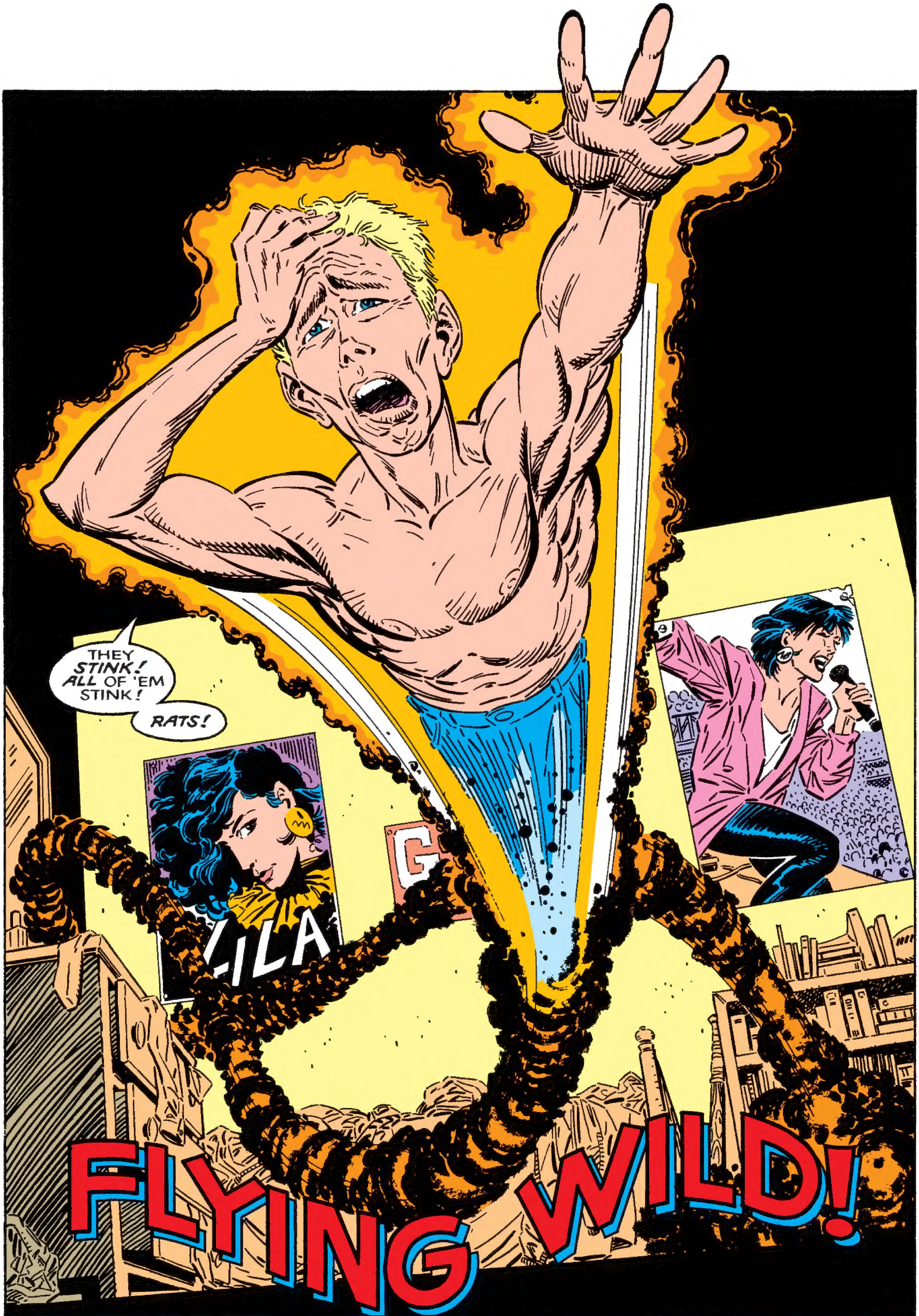
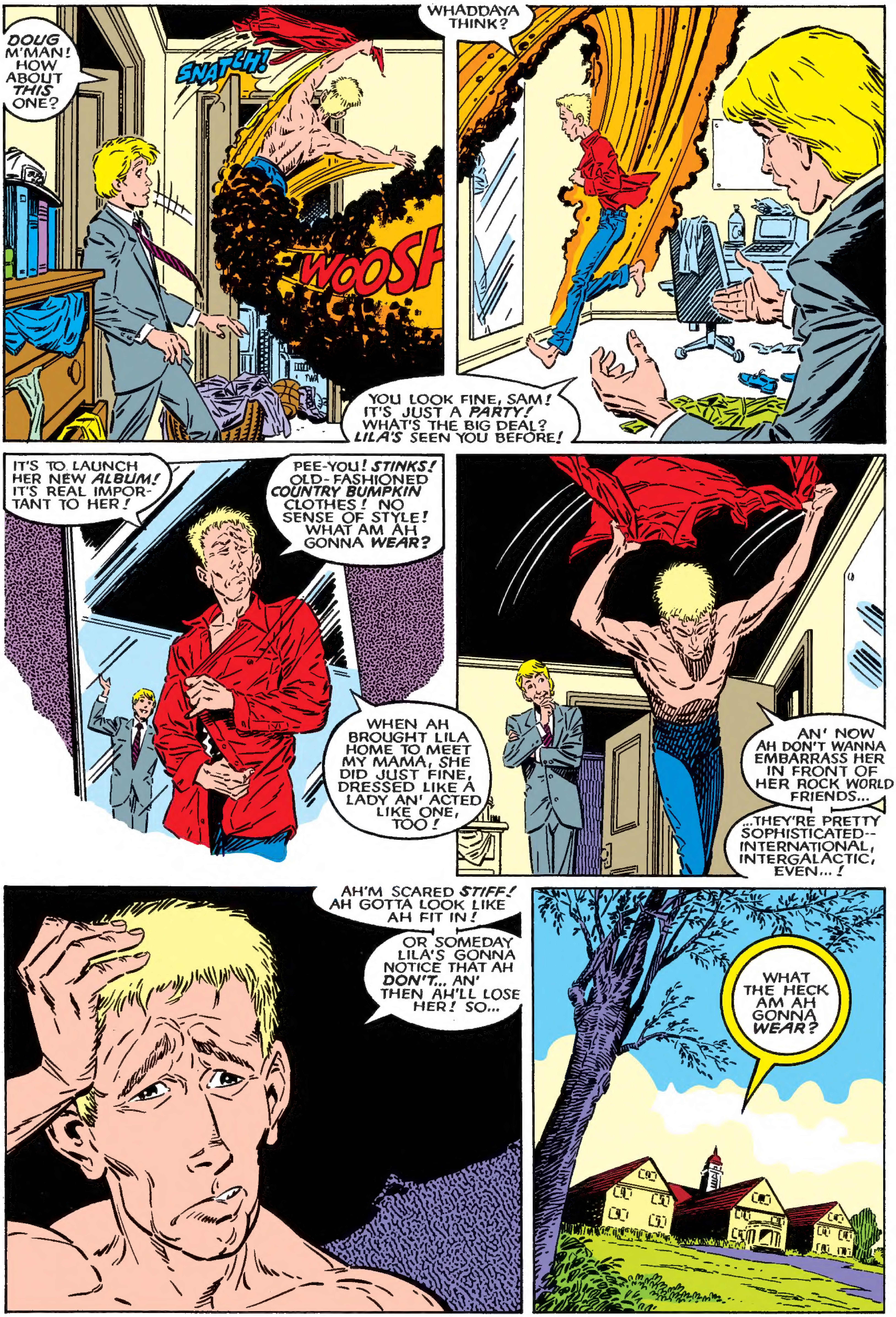
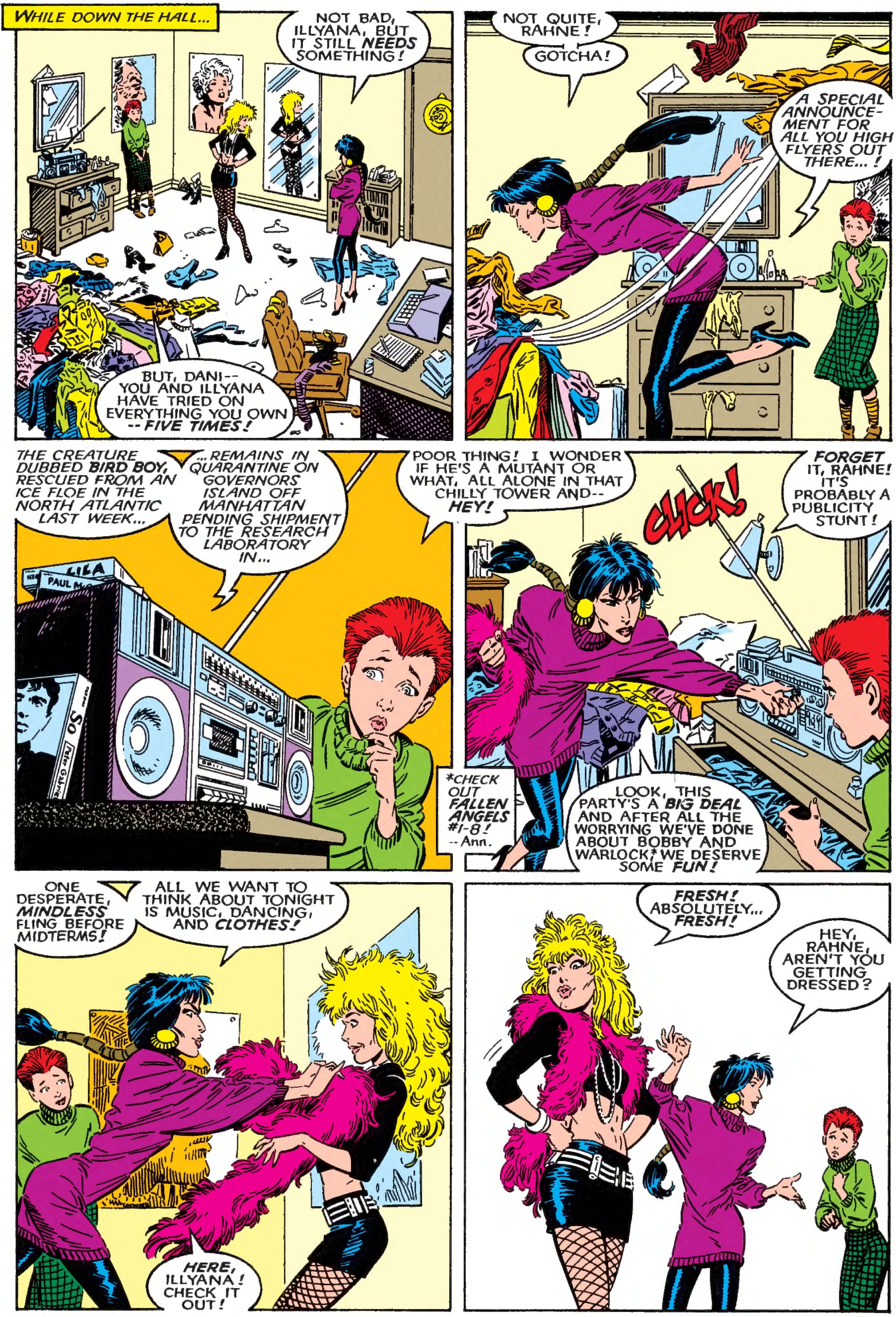
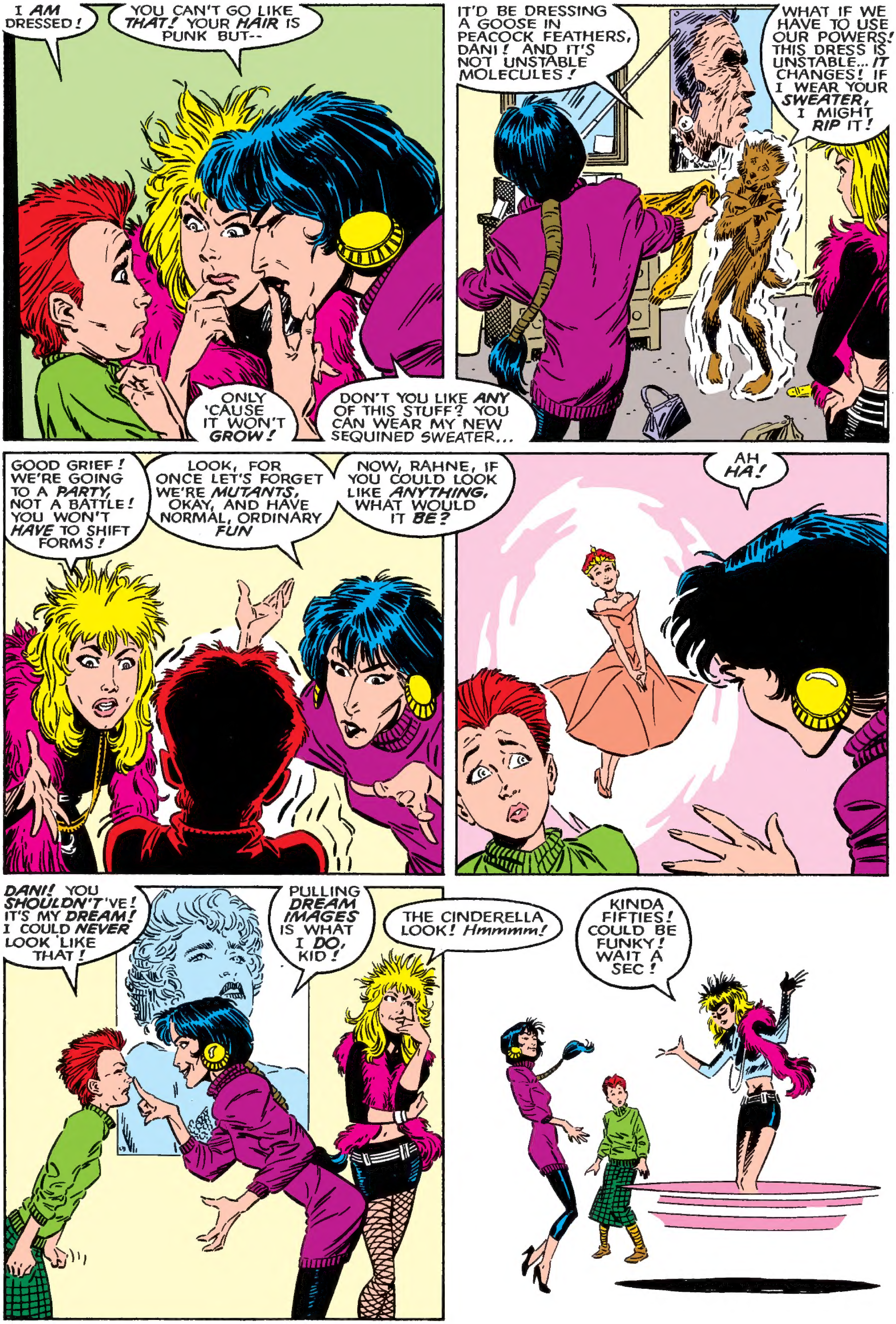
IF YOU CAN'T FLY, YOU DIE, CANNONBALL!
BRET + TERRY

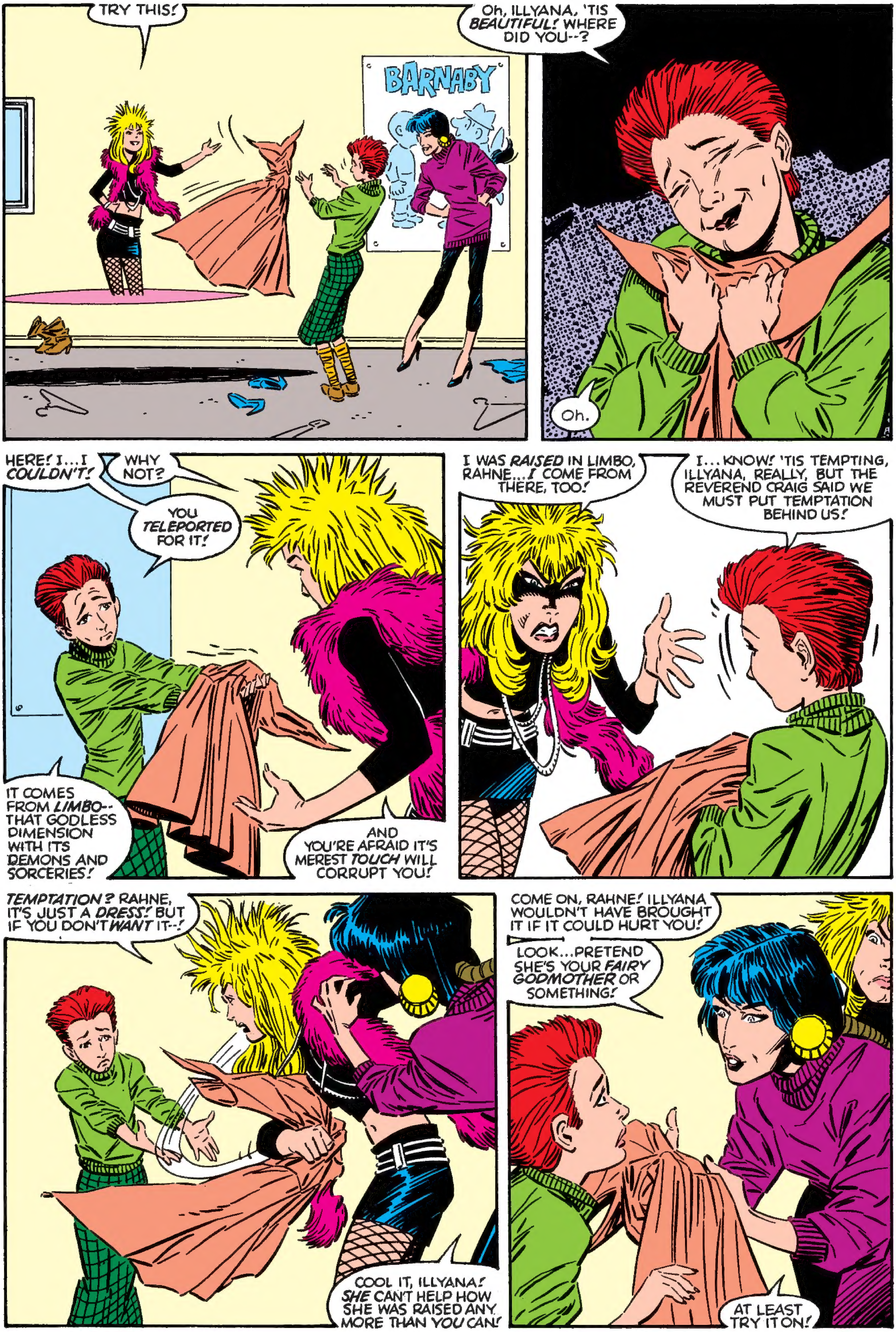

THEY *STINK!* *ALL* OF 'EM STINK!
RATS!
LILA
G
FLYING WILD!

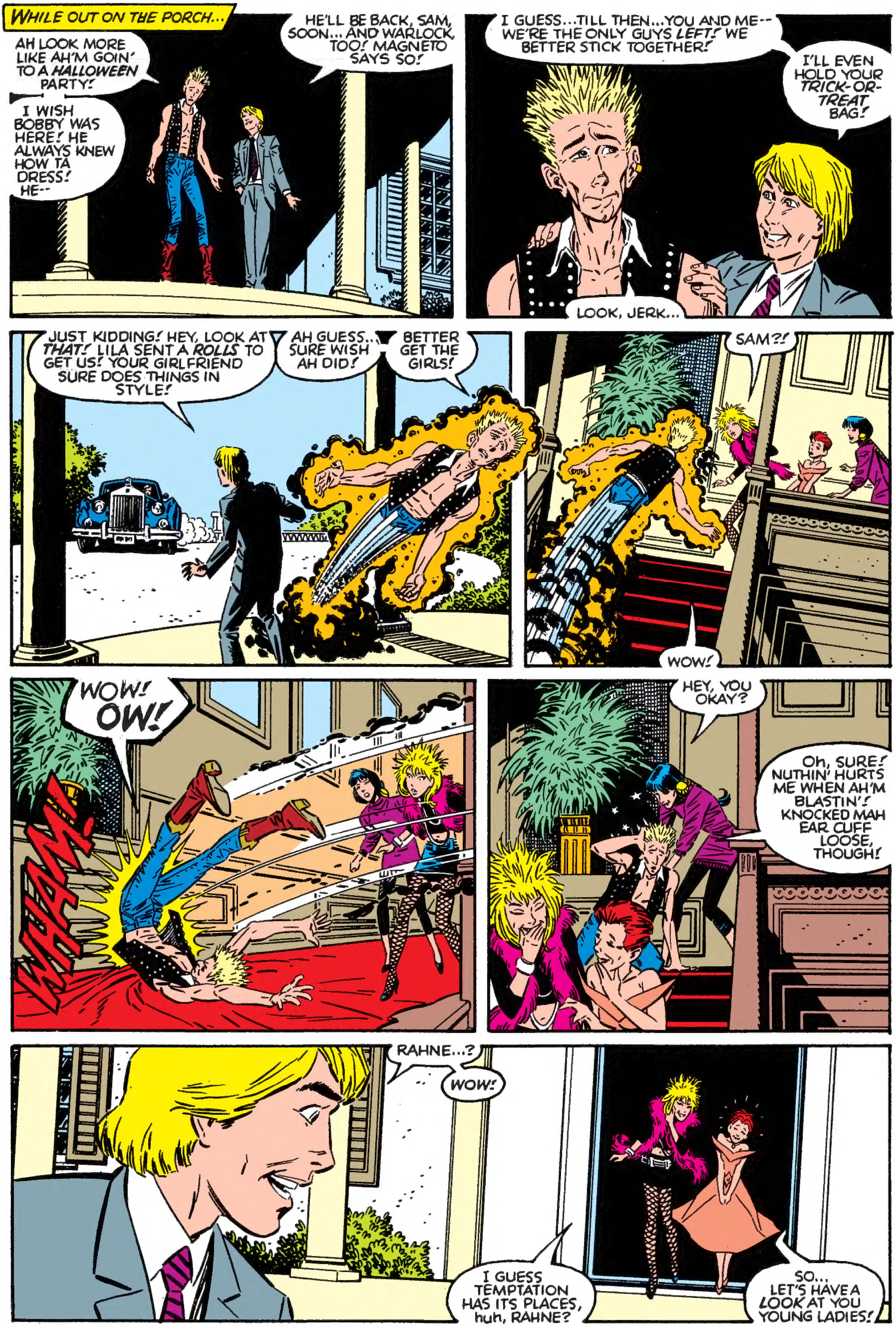
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER | *BRET BLEVINS* PENCILER | *TERRY AUSTIN* INKER | *ORZECHOWSKI AND BUHALIS,* LETTERERS | *GLYNIS OLIVER* COLORIST | *ANN NOCENTI,* EDITOR *JIM SHOOTER,* CHIEF

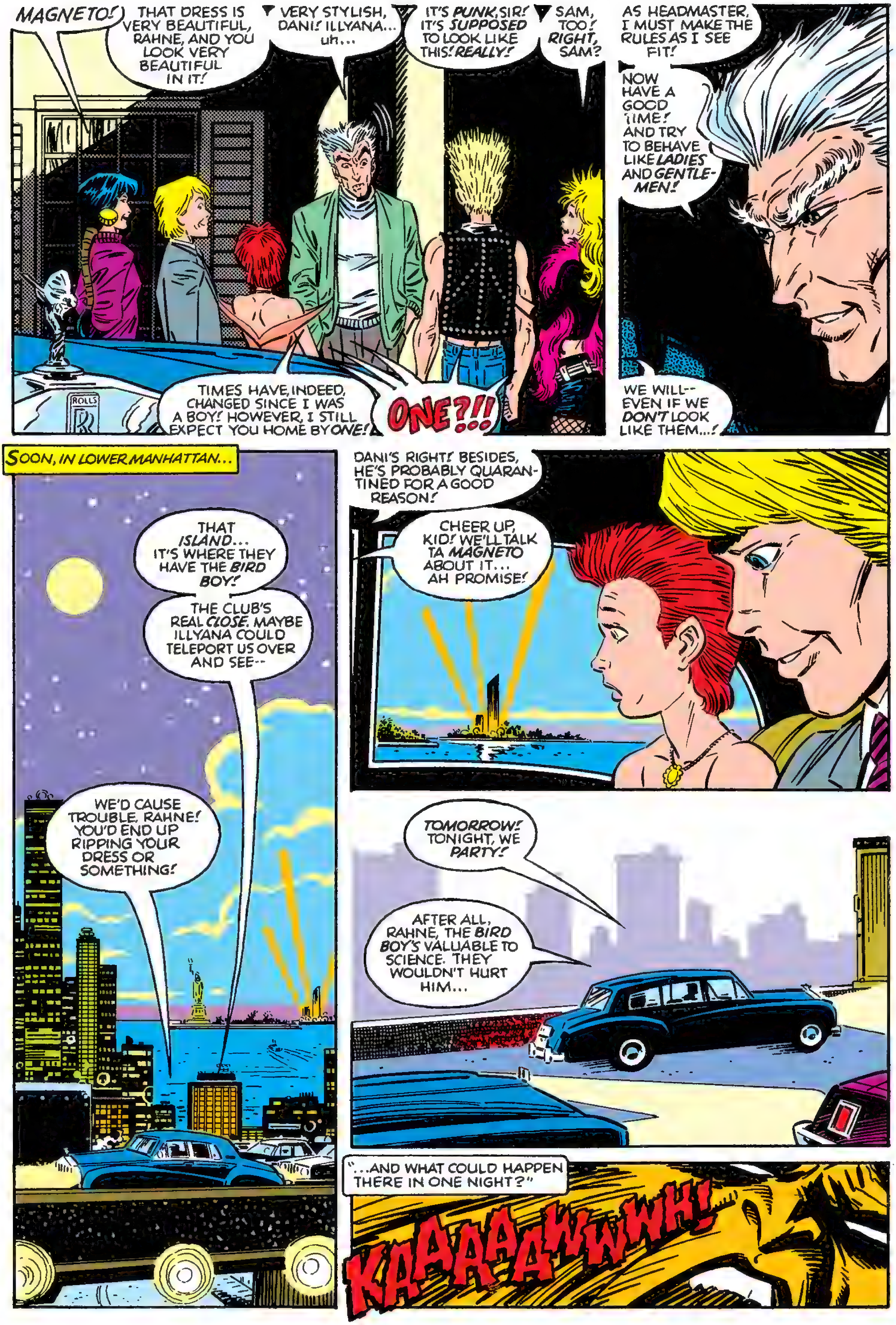

DOUG M'MAN! HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
SNATCH!
WOOSH
WHADDAYA THINK?
YOU LOOK FINE, SAM! IT'S JUST A PARTY! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? LILA'S SEEN YOU BEFORE!
IT'S TO LAUNCH HER NEW ALBUM! IT'S REAL IMPORTANT TO HER!
PEE-YOU! STINKS! OLD-FASHIONED COUNTRY BUMPKIN CLOTHES! NO SENSE OF STYLE! WHAT AM AH GONNA WEAR?
WHEN AH BROUGHT LILA HOME TO MEET MY MAMA, SHE DID JUST FINE, DRESSED LIKE A LADY AN' ACTED LIKE ONE, TOO!
AN' NOW AH DON'T WANNA EMBARRASS HER IN FRONT OF HER ROCK WORLD FRIENDS...
...THEY'RE PRETTY SOPHISTICATED--INTERNATIONAL, INTERGALACTIC, EVEN...!
AH'M SCARED STIFF! AH GOTTA LOOK LIKE AH FIT IN!
OR SOMEDAY LILA'S GONNA NOTICE THAT AH DON'T... AN' THEN AH'LL LOSE HER! SO...
WHAT THE HECK AM AH GONNA WEAR?

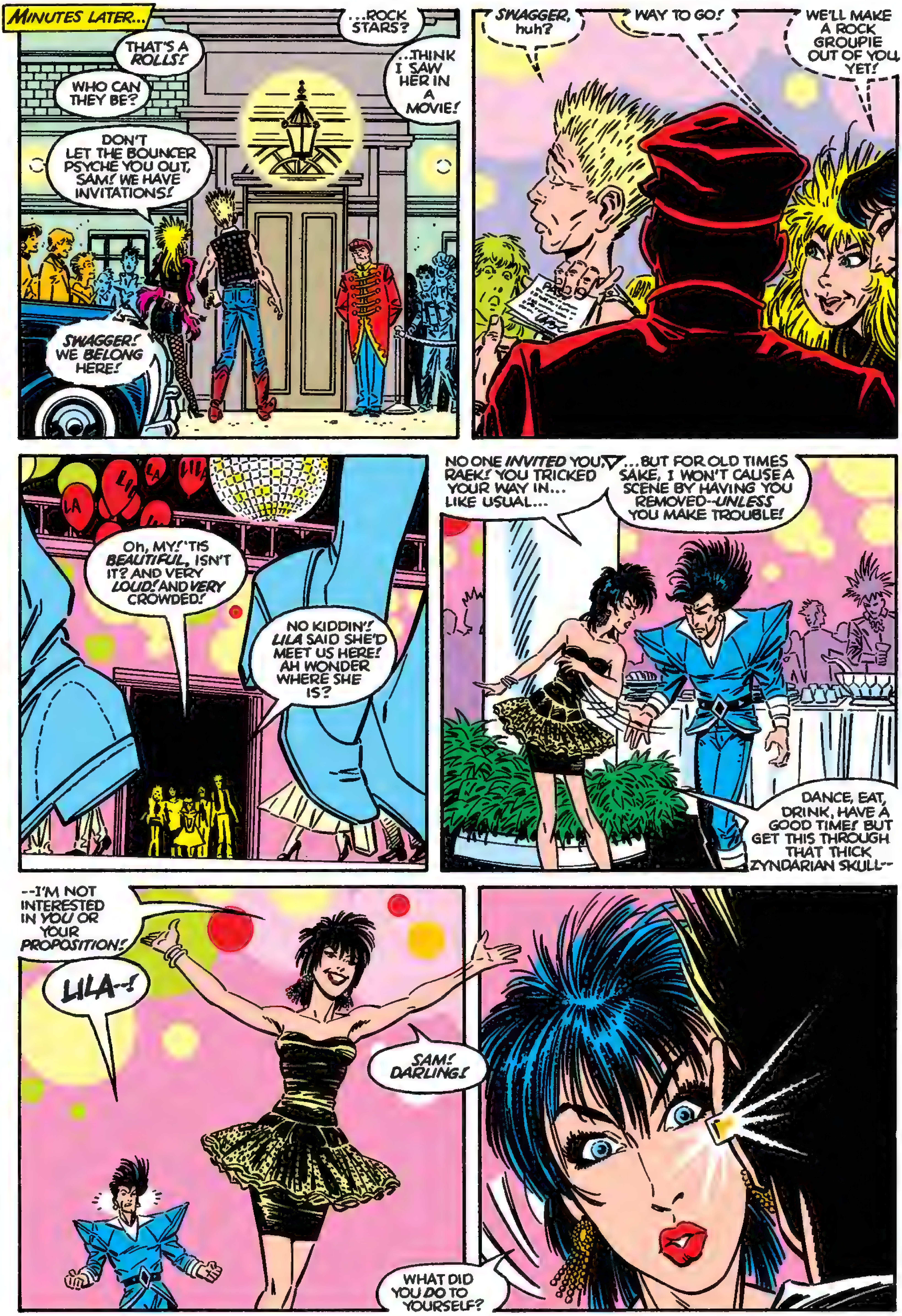

WHILE DOWN THE HALL...
NOT BAD, ILLYANA, BUT IT STILL NEEDS SOMETHING!
BUT, DANI-- YOU AND ILLYANA HAVE TRIED ON EVERYTHING YOU OWN --FIVE TIMES!
NOT QUITE, RAHNE!
GOTCHA!
A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL YOU HIGH FLYERS OUT THERE...!
THE CREATURE DUBBED BIRD BOY, RESCUED FROM AN ICE FLOE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC LAST WEEK...
...REMAINS IN QUARANTINE ON GOVERNORS ISLAND OFF MANHATTAN PENDING SHIPMENT TO THE RESEARCH LABORATORY IN...
LILA
PAUL M
SO
POOR THING! I WONDER IF HE'S A MUTANT OR WHAT, ALL ALONE IN THAT CHILLY TOWER AND-- HEY!
CLICK!
FORGET IT, RAHNE! IT'S PROBABLY A PUBLICITY STUNT!
LOOK, THIS PARTY'S A BIG DEAL AND AFTER ALL THE WORRYING WE'VE DONE ABOUT BOBBY AND WARLOCK,* WE DESERVE SOME FUN!
*CHECK OUT FALLEN ANGELS #1-8! --Ann.
ONE DESPERATE, MINDLESS FLING BEFORE MIDTERMS!
ALL WE WANT TO THINK ABOUT TONIGHT IS MUSIC, DANCING, AND CLOTHES!
HERE, ILLYANA! CHECK IT OUT!
FRESH! ABSOLUTELY... FRESH!
HEY, RAHNE, AREN'T YOU GETTING DRESSED?

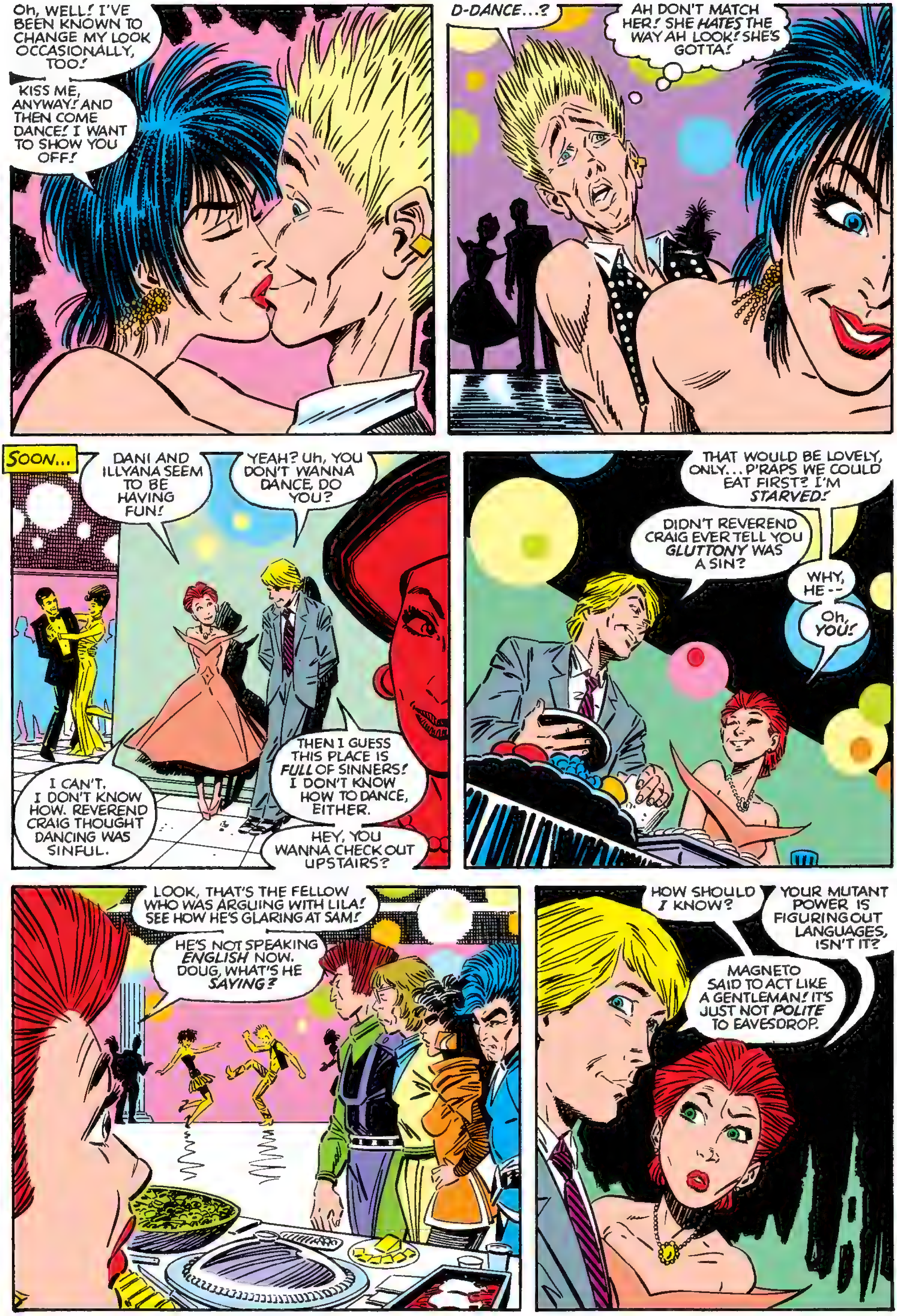

I AM DRESSED!
YOU CAN'T GO LIKE THAT! YOUR HAIR IS PUNK BUT--
ONLY 'CAUSE IT WON'T GROW!
DON'T YOU LIKE ANY OF THIS STUFF? YOU CAN WEAR MY NEW SEQUINED SWEATER...
IT'D BE DRESSING A GOOSE IN PEACOCK FEATHERS, DANI! AND IT'S NOT UNSTABLE MOLECULES!
WHAT IF WE HAVE TO USE OUR POWERS! THIS DRESS IS UNSTABLE... IT CHANGES! IF I WEAR YOUR SWEATER, I MIGHT RIP IT!
GOOD GRIEF! WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY, NOT A BATTLE! YOU WON'T HAVE TO SHIFT FORMS!
LOOK, FOR ONCE LET'S FORGET WE'RE MUTANTS, OKAY, AND HAVE NORMAL, ORDINARY FUN
NOW, RAHNE, IF YOU COULD LOOK LIKE ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
AH HA!
DANI! YOU SHOULDN'T'VE! IT'S MY DREAM! I COULD NEVER LOOK 'LIKE THAT!
PULLING DREAM IMAGES IS WHAT I DO, KID!
THE CINDERELLA LOOK! Hmmmm!
KINDA FIFTIES! COULD BE FUNKY! WAIT A SEC!

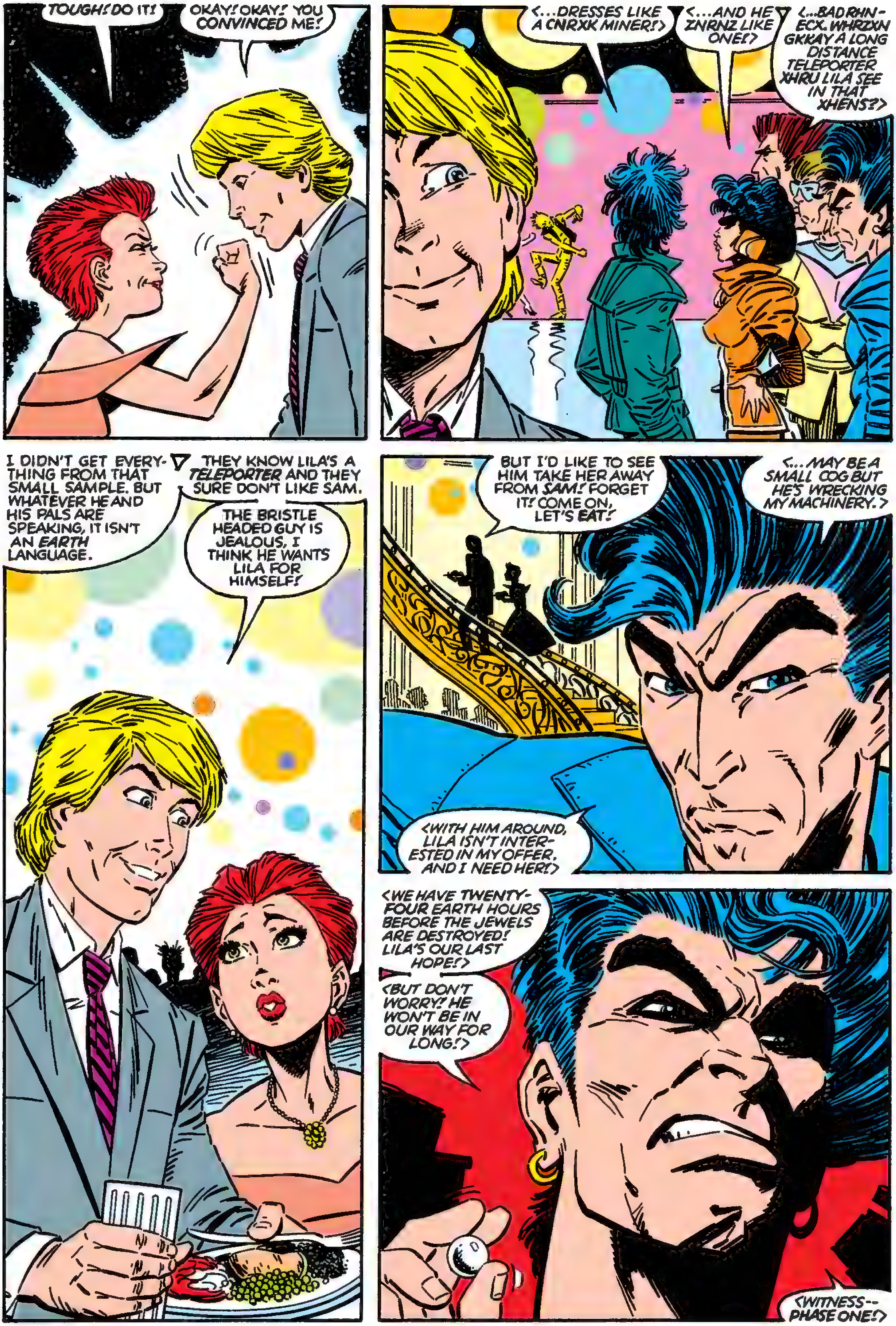

TRY THIS!
BARNABY
Oh, ILLYANA, 'TIS *BEAUTIFUL!* WHERE DID YOU--?
Oh.
HERE! I...I *COULDN'T!*
WHY NOT?
YOU *TELEPORTED* FOR IT!
IT COMES FROM *LIMBO*-- THAT GODLESS DIMENSION WITH ITS DEMONS AND SORCERIES!
AND YOU'RE AFRAID IT'S MEREST *TOUCH* WILL CORRUPT YOU!
I WAS *RAISED* IN LIMBO, RAHNE... *I* COME FROM THERE, TOO!
I... KNOW! 'TIS TEMPTING, ILLYANA, REALLY, BUT THE REVEREND CRAIG SAID WE MUST PUT TEMPTATION BEHIND US!
TEMPTATION? RAHNE, IT'S JUST A *DRESS!* BUT IF YOU DON'T *WANT* IT--!
COOL IT, ILLYANA! *SHE* CAN'T HELP HOW SHE WAS RAISED ANY MORE THAN *YOU* CAN!
COME ON, RAHNE! ILLYANA WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT IF IT COULD HURT YOU!
LOOK...PRETEND SHE'S YOUR *FAIRY GODMOTHER* OR SOMETHING!
AT LEAST TRY IT ON!

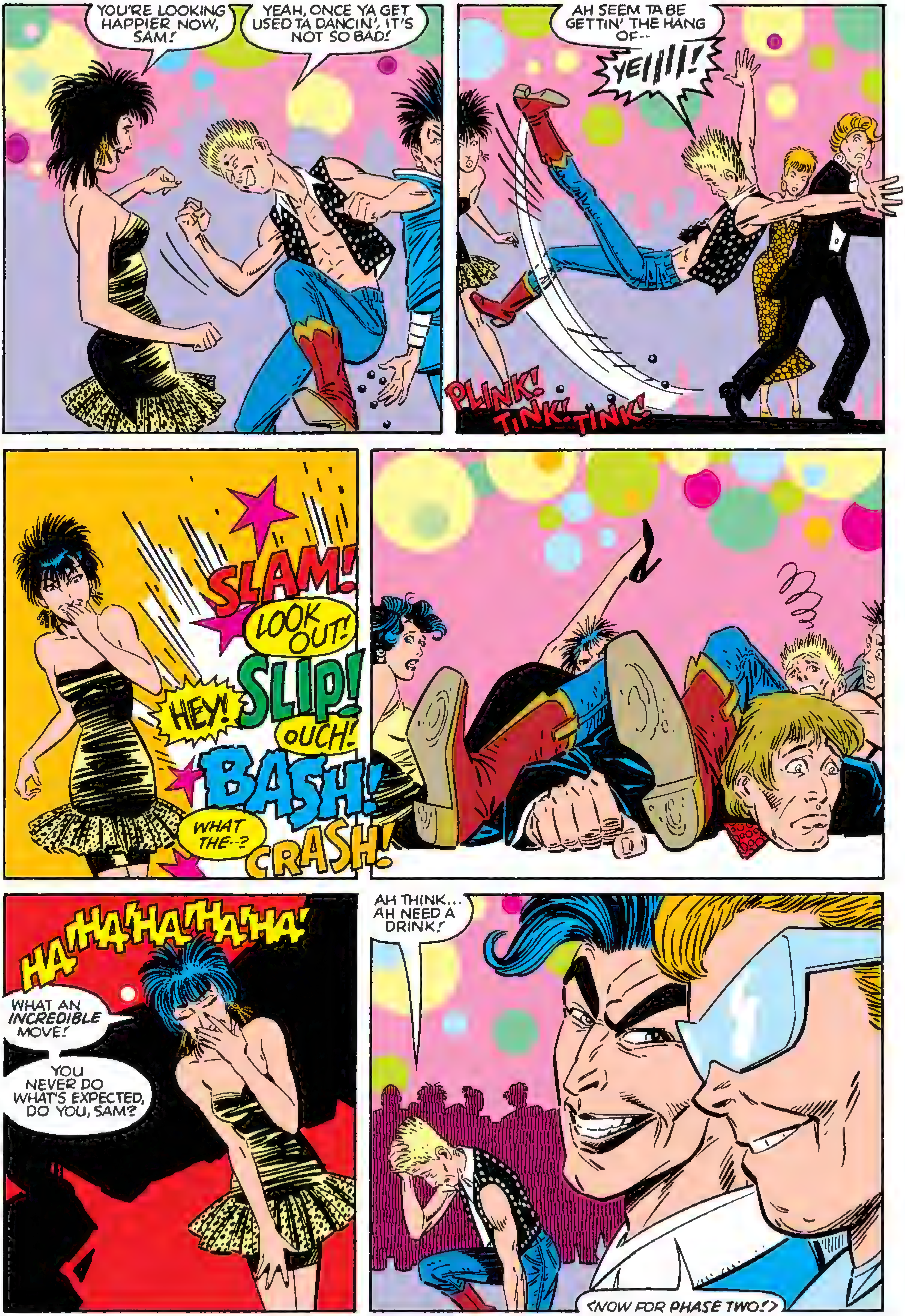

WHILE OUT ON THE PORCH...
AH LOOK MORE LIKE AH'M GOIN' TO A *HALLOWEEN* PARTY!
I WISH BOBBY WAS HERE! HE ALWAYS KNEW HOW TA DRESS! HE--
HE'LL BE BACK, SAM, SOON... AND WARLOCK, TOO! MAGNETO SAYS SO!
I GUESS... TILL THEN... YOU AND ME-- WE'RE THE ONLY GUYS *LEFT!* WE BETTER STICK TOGETHER!
I'LL EVEN HOLD YOUR *TRICK-OR-TREAT* BAG!
LOOK, JERK...
JUST KIDDING! HEY, LOOK AT *THAT!* LILA SENT A *ROLLS* TO GET US! YOUR GIRLFRIEND SURE DOES THINGS IN STYLE!
AH GUESS... SURE WISH AH DID!
BETTER GET THE GIRLS!
SAM?!
WOW!
WOW! OW!
WHAM!
HEY, YOU OKAY?
Oh, SURE! NUTHIN' HURTS ME WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'! KNOCKED MAH EAR CUFF LOOSE, THOUGH!
RAHNE...?
WOW!
I GUESS TEMPTATION HAS ITS PLACES, huh, RAHNE?
SO... LET'S HAVE A *LOOK* AT YOU YOUNG LADIES!

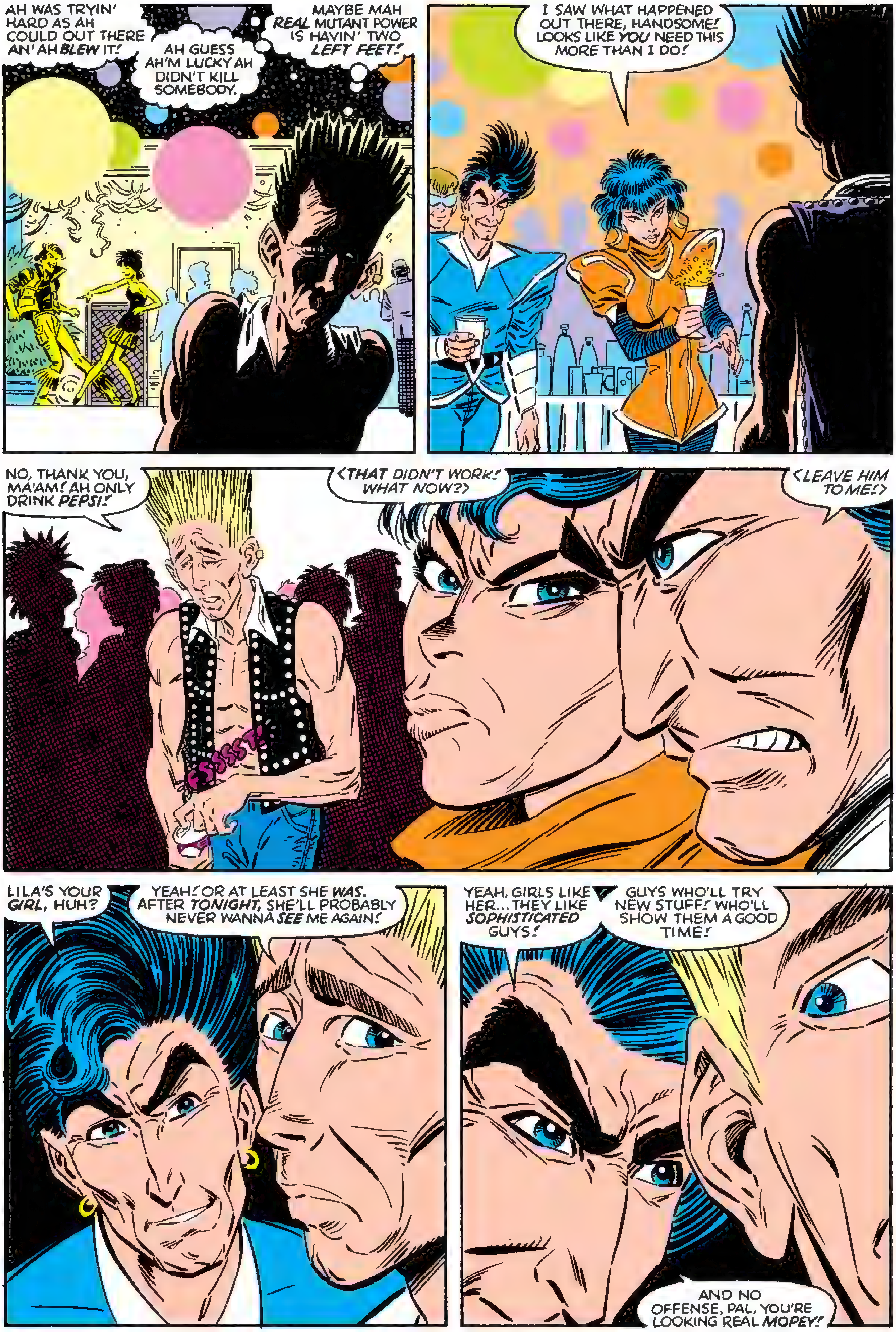

MAGNETO!
THAT DRESS IS VERY BEAUTIFUL, RAHNE, AND YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL IN IT!
VERY STYLISH, DANI! ILLYANA... uh...
IT'S PUNK, SIR! IT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE THIS! REALLY!
SAM, TOO! RIGHT, SAM?
ROLLS
TIMES HAVE, INDEED, CHANGED SINCE I WAS A BOY! HOWEVER, I STILL EXPECT YOU HOME BY ONE!
ONE?!!
AS HEADMASTER, I MUST MAKE THE RULES AS I SEE FIT!
NOW HAVE A GOOD TIME! AND TRY TO BEHAVE LIKE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
WE WILL-- EVEN IF WE DON'T LOOK LIKE THEM...!
SOON, IN LOWER MANHATTAN...
THAT ISLAND... IT'S WHERE THEY HAVE THE BIRD BOY!
THE CLUB'S REAL CLOSE. MAYBE ILLYANA COULD TELEPORT US OVER AND SEE--
WE'D CAUSE TROUBLE, RAHNE! YOU'D END UP RIPPING YOUR DRESS OR SOMETHING!
DANI'S RIGHT! BESIDES, HE'S PROBABLY QUARANTINED FOR A GOOD REASON!
CHEER UP, KID! WE'LL TALK TA MAGNETO ABOUT IT... AH PROMISE!
TOMORROW! TONIGHT, WE PARTY!
AFTER ALL, RAHNE, THE BIRD BOY'S VALUABLE TO SCIENCE. THEY WOULDN'T HURT HIM...
"...AND WHAT COULD HAPPEN THERE IN ONE NIGHT?"
KAAAAAWWWH!

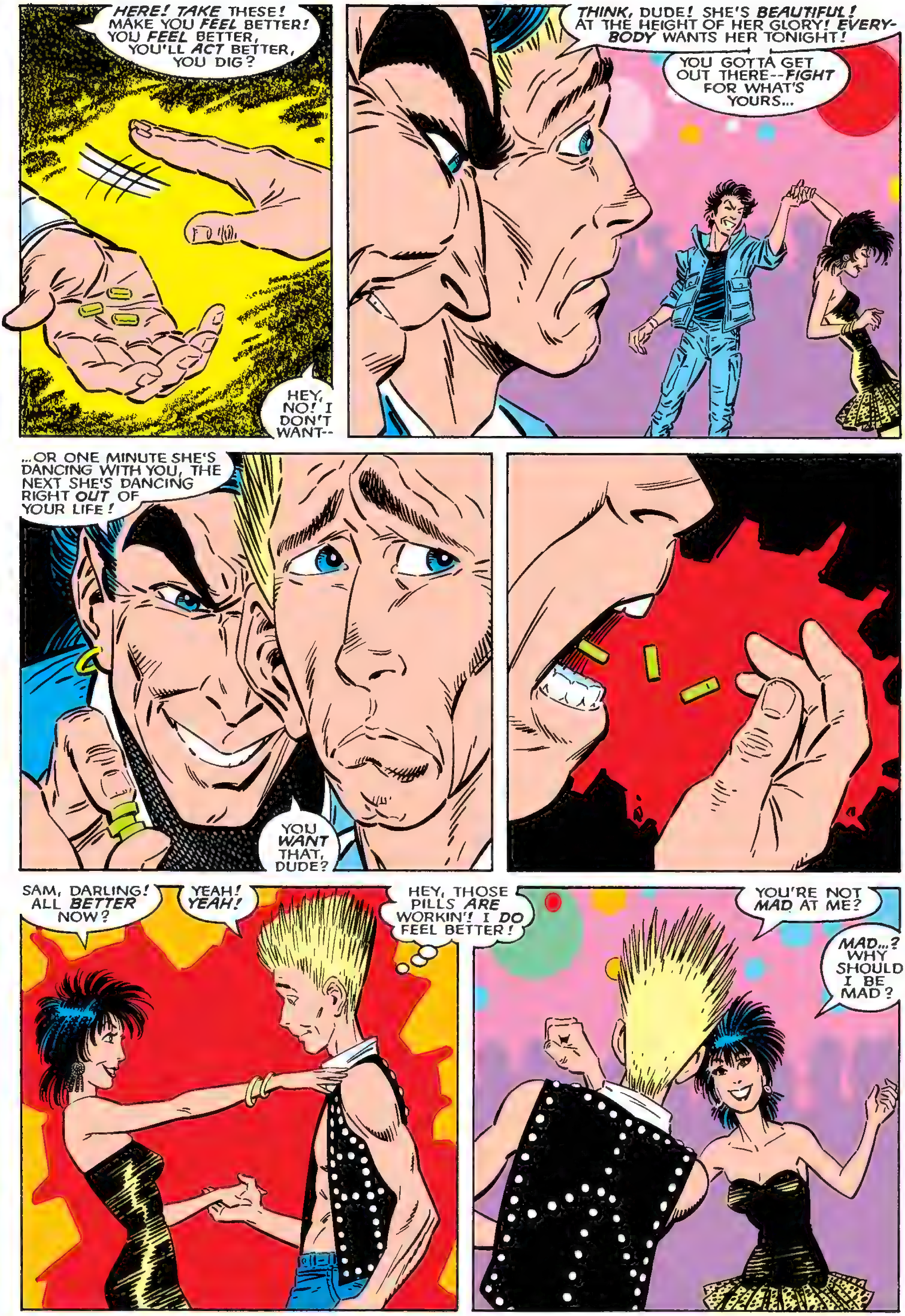

MINUTES LATER...
THAT'S A ROLLS!
WHO CAN THEY BE?
...ROCK STARS?
...THINK I SAW HER IN A MOVIE!
DON'T LET THE BOUNCER PSYCHE YOU OUT, SAM! WE HAVE INVITATIONS!
SWAGGER! WE BELONG HERE!
SWAGGER, huh?
WAY TO GO!
WE'LL MAKE A ROCK GROUPIE OUT OF YOU, YET!
LA
Oh, MY! 'TIS BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? AND VERY LOUD! AND VERY CROWDED!
NO KIDDIN'! LILA SAID SHE'D MEET US HERE! AH WONDER WHERE SHE IS?
NO ONE INVITED YOU, RAEK! YOU TRICKED YOUR WAY IN... LIKE USUAL...
...BUT FOR OLD TIMES SAKE, I WON'T CAUSE A SCENE BY HAVING YOU REMOVED--UNLESS YOU MAKE TROUBLE!
DANCE, EAT, DRINK, HAVE A GOOD TIME! BUT GET THIS THROUGH THAT THICK ZYNDARIAN SKULL--
--I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU OR YOUR PROPOSITION!
LILA--!
SAM! DARLING!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOURSELF?

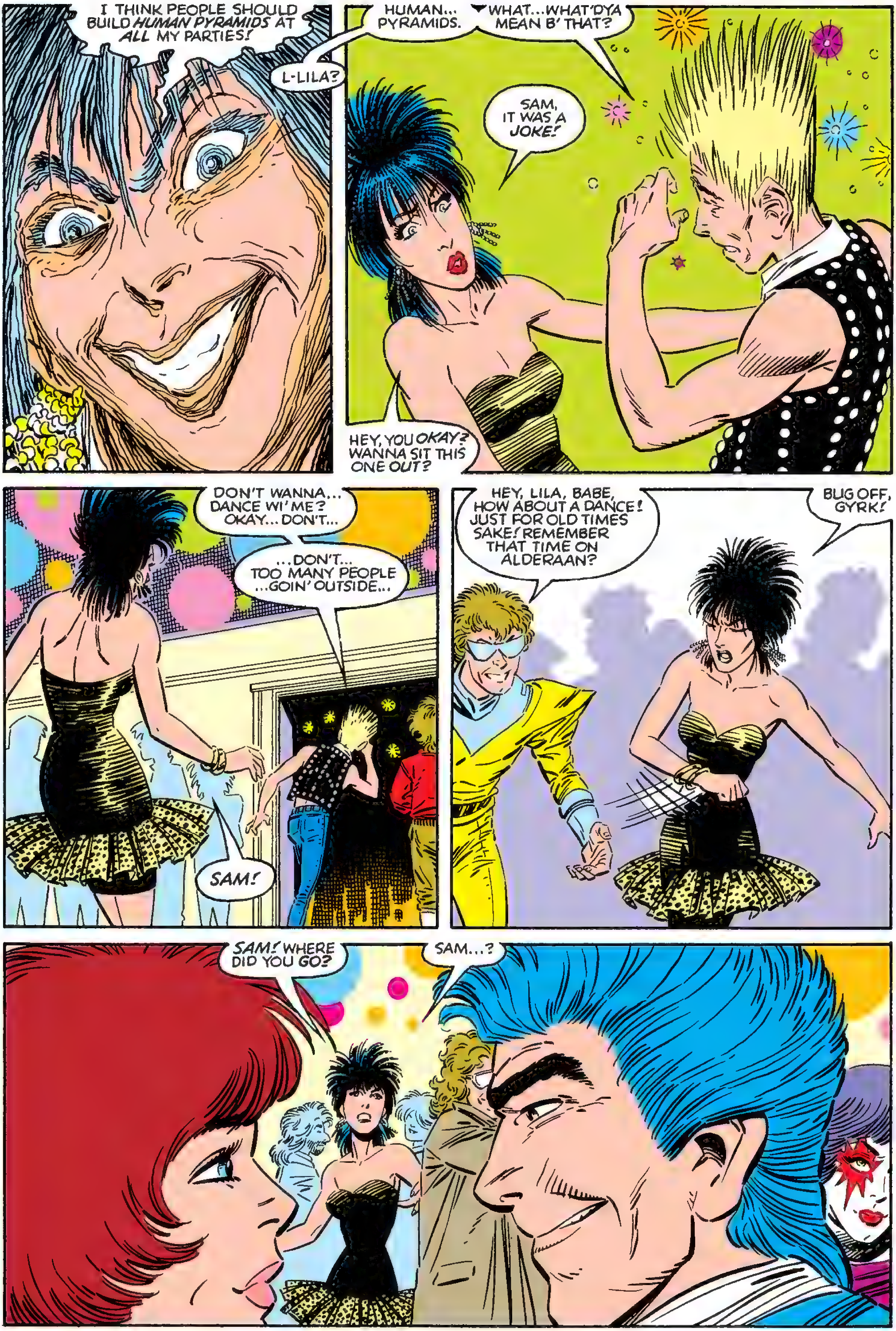

Oh, WELL! I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO CHANGE MY LOOK OCCASIONALLY, TOO!
KISS ME, ANYWAY! AND THEN COME DANCE! I WANT TO SHOW YOU OFF!
D-DANCE...?
AH DON'T MATCH HER! SHE HATES THE WAY AH LOOK! SHE'S GOTTA!
SOON...
DANI AND ILLYANA SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN!
YEAH? Uh, YOU DON'T WANNA DANCE, DO YOU?
I CAN'T. I DON'T KNOW HOW. REVEREND CRAIG THOUGHT DANCING WAS SINFUL.
THEN I GUESS THIS PLACE IS FULL OF SINNERS! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE, EITHER.
HEY, YOU WANNA CHECK OUT UPSTAIRS?
THAT WOULD BE LOVELY, ONLY... P'RAPS WE COULD EAT FIRST? I'M STARVED!
DIDN'T REVEREND CRAIG EVER TELL YOU GLUTTONY WAS A SIN?
WHY, HE --
Oh, YOU!
LOOK, THAT'S THE FELLOW WHO WAS ARGUING WITH LILA! SEE HOW HE'S GLARING AT SAM!
HE'S NOT SPEAKING ENGLISH NOW. DOUG, WHAT'S HE SAYING?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
YOUR MUTANT POWER IS FIGURING OUT LANGUAGES, ISN'T IT?
MAGNETO SAID TO ACT LIKE A GENTLEMAN! IT'S JUST NOT POLITE TO EAVESDROP.

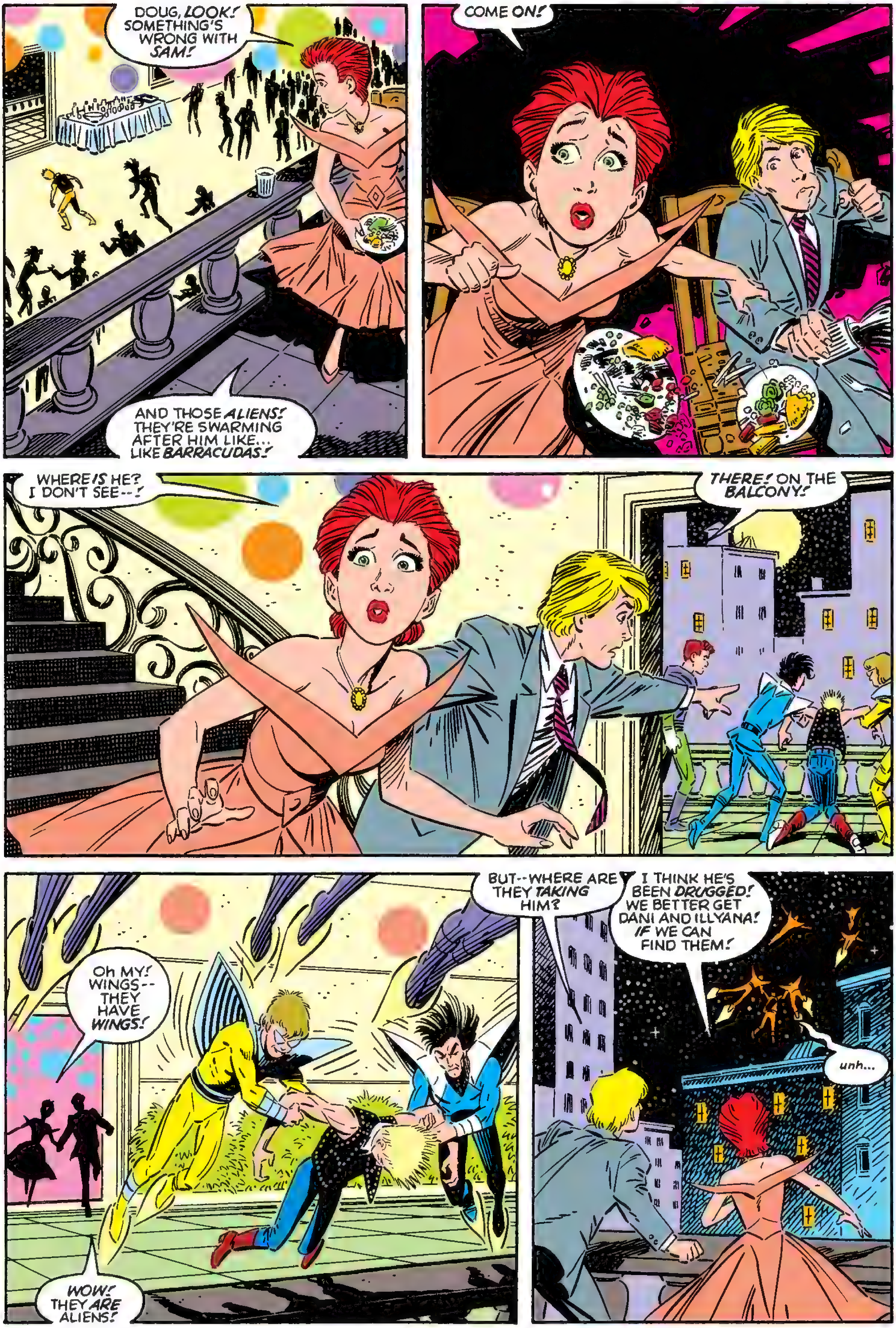

TOUGH! DO IT!
OKAY! OKAY! YOU CONVINCED ME!
<...DRESSES LIKE A CNRXK MINER!>
<...AND HE ZNRNZ LIKE ONE!>
<...BAD RHN-ECX. WHRZXN GKKAY A LONG DISTANCE TELEPORTER XHRU LILA SEE IN THAT XHENS?>
I DIDN'T GET EVERYTHING FROM THAT SMALL SAMPLE. BUT WHATEVER HE AND HIS PALS ARE SPEAKING, IT ISN'T AN EARTH LANGUAGE.
THEY KNOW LILA'S A TELEPORTER AND THEY SURE DON'T LIKE SAM.
THE BRISTLE HEADED GUY IS JEALOUS, I THINK HE WANTS LILA FOR HIMSELF!
BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM TAKE HER AWAY FROM SAM! FORGET IT! COME ON, LET'S EAT!
<...MAY BE A SMALL COG BUT HE'S WRECKING MY MACHINERY.>
<WITH HIM AROUND, LILA ISN'T INTERESTED IN MY OFFER, AND I NEED HER!>
<WE HAVE TWENTY-FOUR EARTH HOURS BEFORE THE JEWELS ARE DESTROYED! LILA'S OUR LAST HOPE!>
<BUT DON'T WORRY! HE WON'T BE IN OUR WAY FOR LONG!>
<WITNESS-- PHASE ONE!>

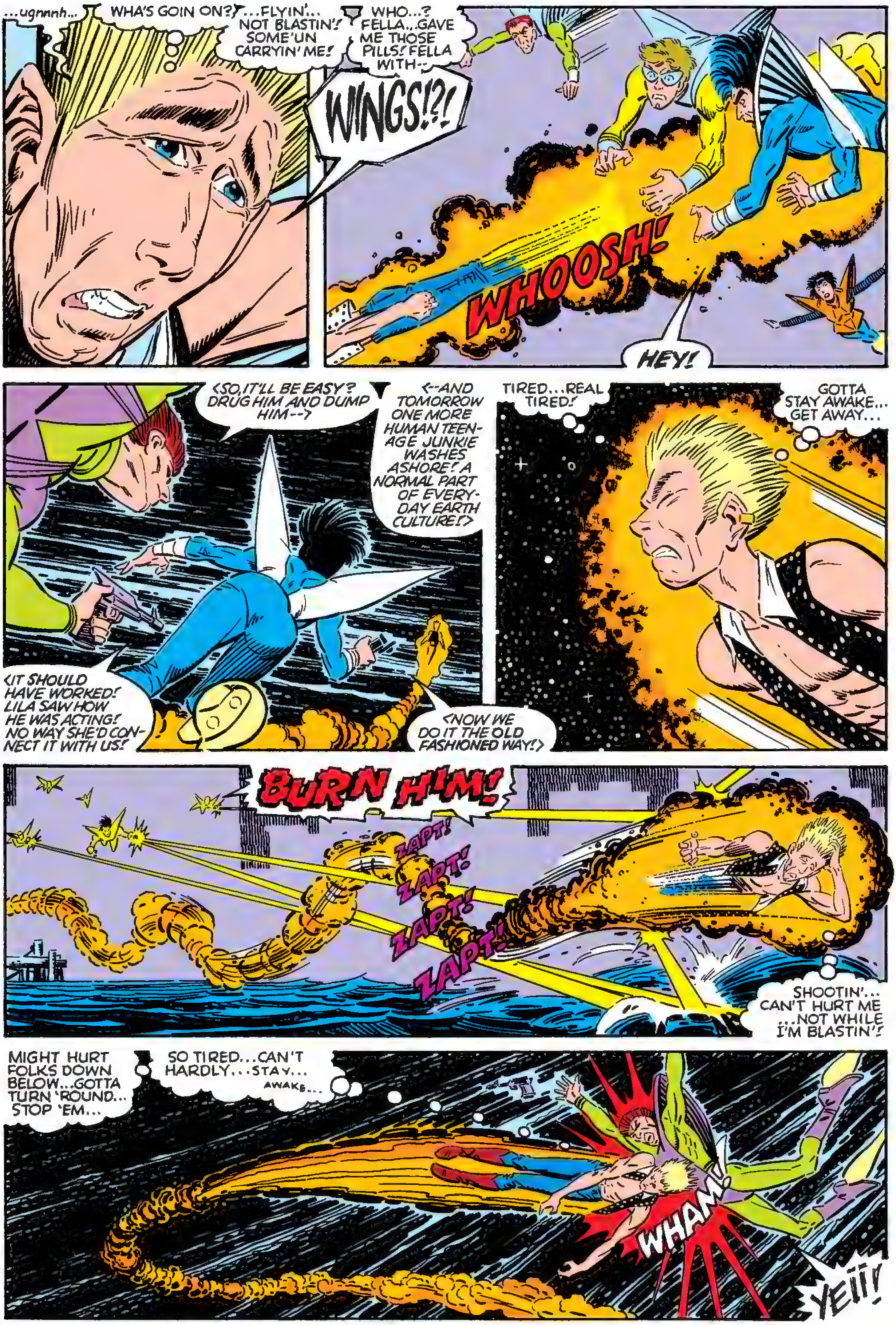

YOU'RE LOOKING HAPPIER NOW, SAM!
YEAH, ONCE YA GET USED TA DANCIN', IT'S NOT SO BAD!
AH SEEM TA BE GETTIN' THE HANG OF--
YEIIII!
PLINK! TINK! TINK!
SLAM!
LOOK OUT!
HEY!
SLIP!
OUCH!
BASH!
WHAT THE--?
CRASH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHAT AN *INCREDIBLE* MOVE!
YOU NEVER DO WHAT'S EXPECTED, DO YOU, SAM?
AH THINK... AH NEED A DRINK!
<NOW FOR *PHASE TWO!*>

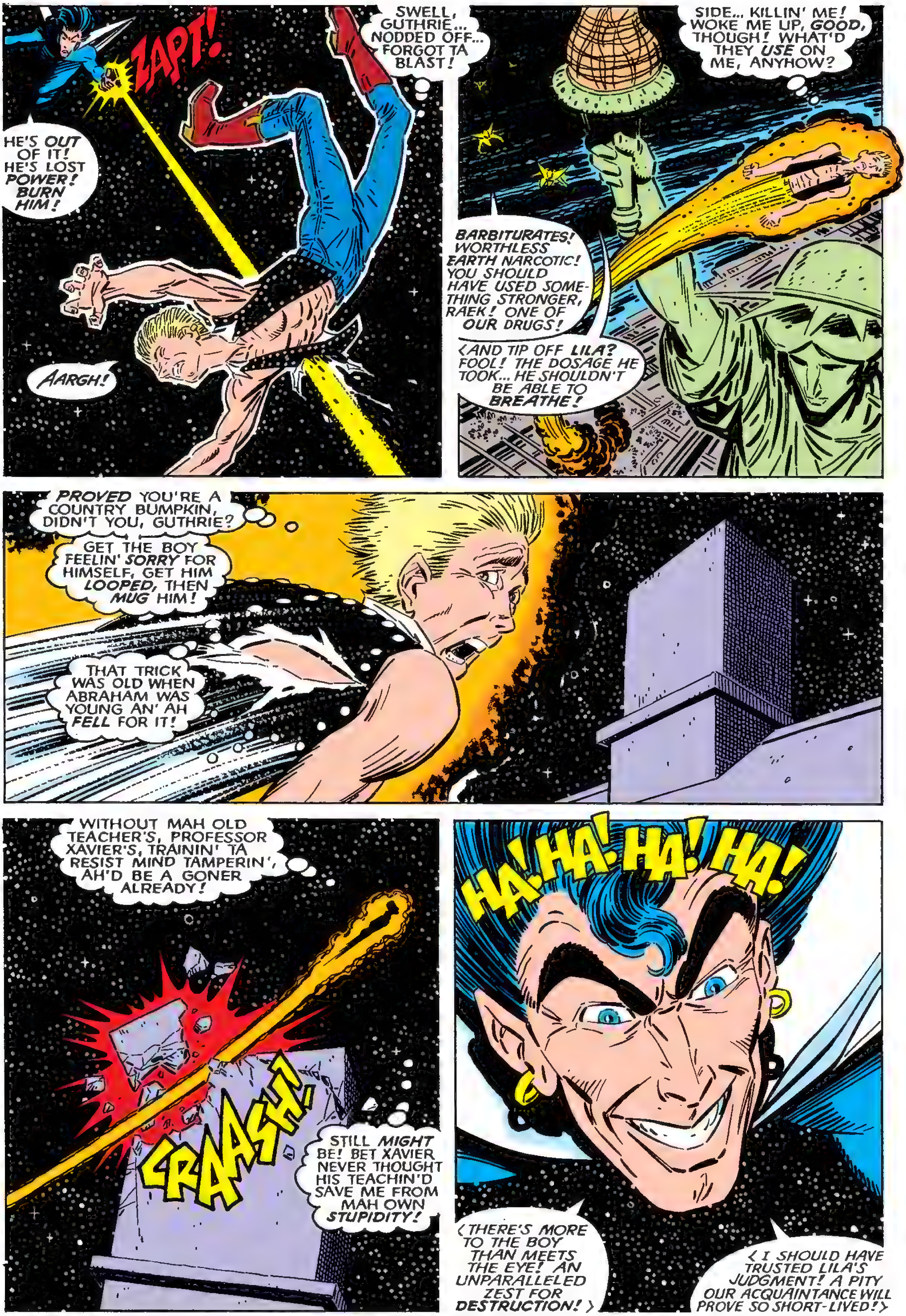

AH WAS TRYIN' HARD AS AH COULD OUT THERE AN' AH *BLEW* IT!
AH GUESS AH'M LUCKY AH DIDN'T KILL SOMEBODY.
MAYBE MAH *REAL* MUTANT POWER IS HAVIN' TWO *LEFT FEET!*
I SAW WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE, HANDSOME! LOOKS LIKE *YOU* NEED THIS MORE THAN I DO!
NO, THANK YOU, MA'AM! AH ONLY DRINK *PEPSI!*
FSSSST!
<*THAT DIDN'T WORK! WHAT NOW?*>
<*LEAVE HIM TO ME!*>
LILA'S YOUR *GIRL*, HUH?
YEAH! OR AT LEAST SHE *WAS*. AFTER *TONIGHT*, SHE'LL PROBABLY NEVER WANNA *SEE* ME AGAIN!
YEAH, GIRLS LIKE HER... THEY LIKE *SOPHISTICATED* GUYS!
GUYS WHO'LL TRY NEW STUFF! WHO'LL SHOW THEM A GOOD TIME!
AND NO OFFENSE, PAL, YOU'RE LOOKING REAL *MOPEY!*

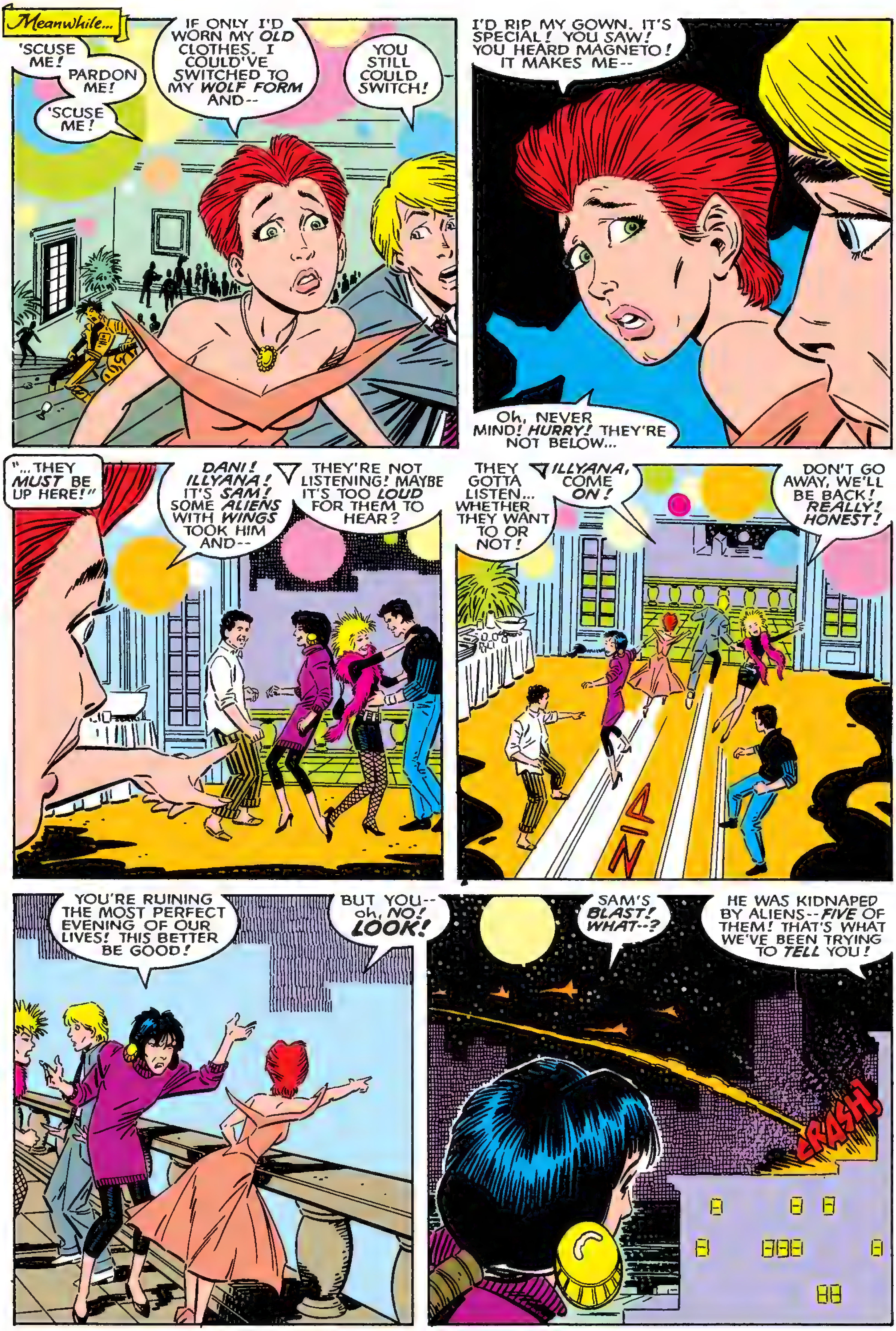

HERE! TAKE THESE! MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER! YOU FEEL BETTER, YOU'LL ACT BETTER, YOU DIG?
HEY, NO! I DON'T WANT--
THINK, DUDE! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! AT THE HEIGHT OF HER GLORY! EVERYBODY WANTS HER TONIGHT!
YOU GOTTA GET OUT THERE--FIGHT FOR WHAT'S YOURS...
...OR ONE MINUTE SHE'S DANCING WITH YOU, THE NEXT SHE'S DANCING RIGHT OUT OF YOUR LIFE!
YOU WANT THAT, DUDE?
SAM, DARLING! ALL BETTER NOW?
YEAH! YEAH!
HEY, THOSE PILLS ARE WORKIN'! I DO FEEL BETTER!
YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME?
MAD...? WHY SHOULD I BE MAD?

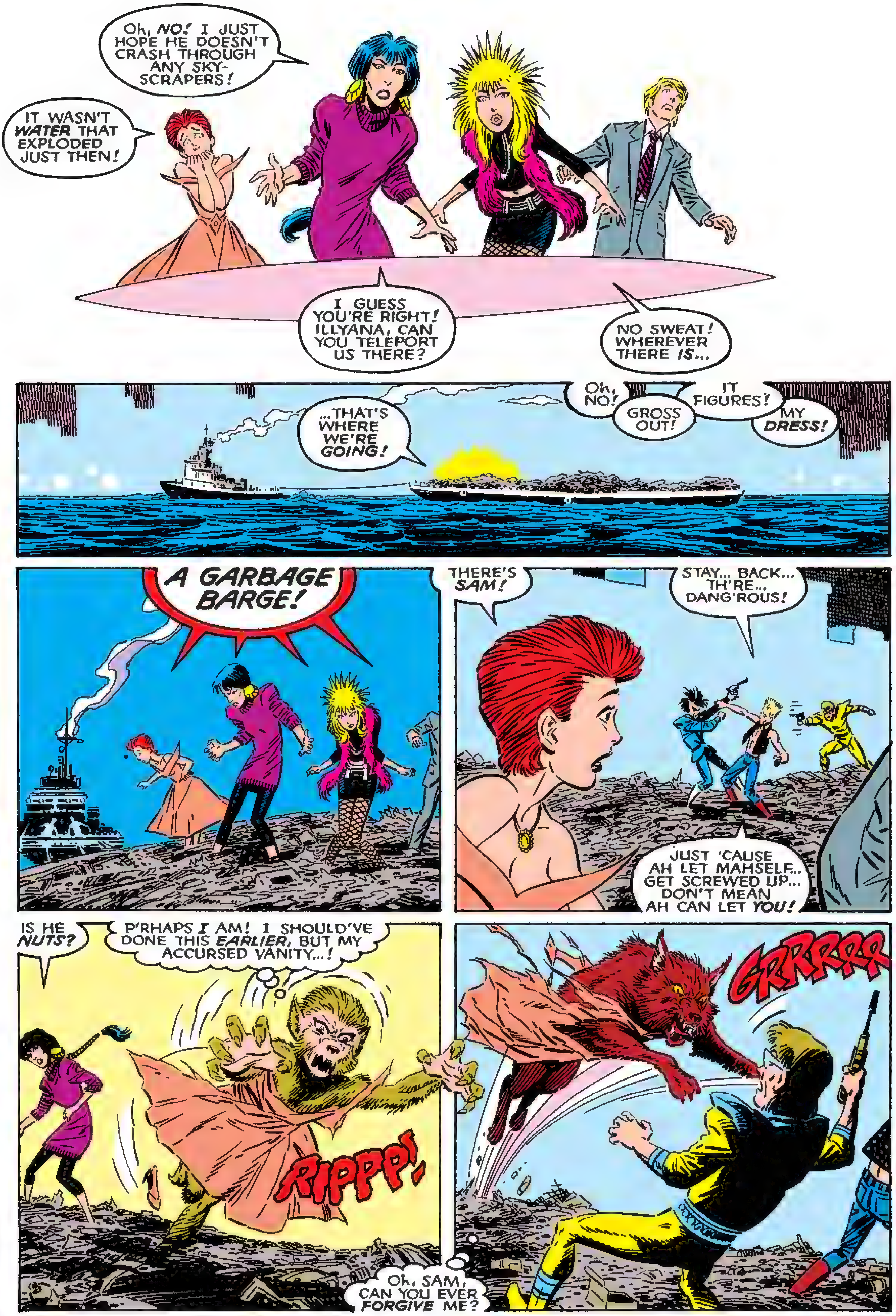

I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BUILD *HUMAN PYRAMIDS* AT *ALL* MY PARTIES!
L-LILA?
HUMAN... PYRAMIDS.
WHAT...WHAT'DYA MEAN B' THAT?
SAM, IT WAS A *JOKE!*
HEY, YOU *OKAY?* WANNA SIT THIS ONE *OUT?*
DON'T WANNA... DANCE WI' ME? OKAY... DON'T...
...DON'T... TOO MANY PEOPLE ...GOIN' OUTSIDE...
SAM!
HEY, LILA, BABE, HOW ABOUT A DANCE! JUST FOR OLD TIMES SAKE! REMEMBER THAT TIME ON ALDERAAN?
BUG OFF, GYRK!
SAM! WHERE DID YOU GO?
SAM...?


DOUG, *LOOK!* SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH *SAM!*
AND THOSE *ALIENS!* THEY'RE SWARMING AFTER HIM LIKE... LIKE *BARRACUDAS!*
COME ON!
WHERE *IS* HE? I DON'T SEE--!
THERE! ON THE *BALCONY!*
Oh MY! WINGS-- THEY HAVE *WINGS!*
WOW! THEY *ARE* ALIENS!
BUT--WHERE ARE THEY *TAKING* HIM?
I THINK HE'S BEEN *DRUGGED!* WE BETTER GET DANI AND ILLYANA! *IF* WE CAN FIND THEM!
unh...

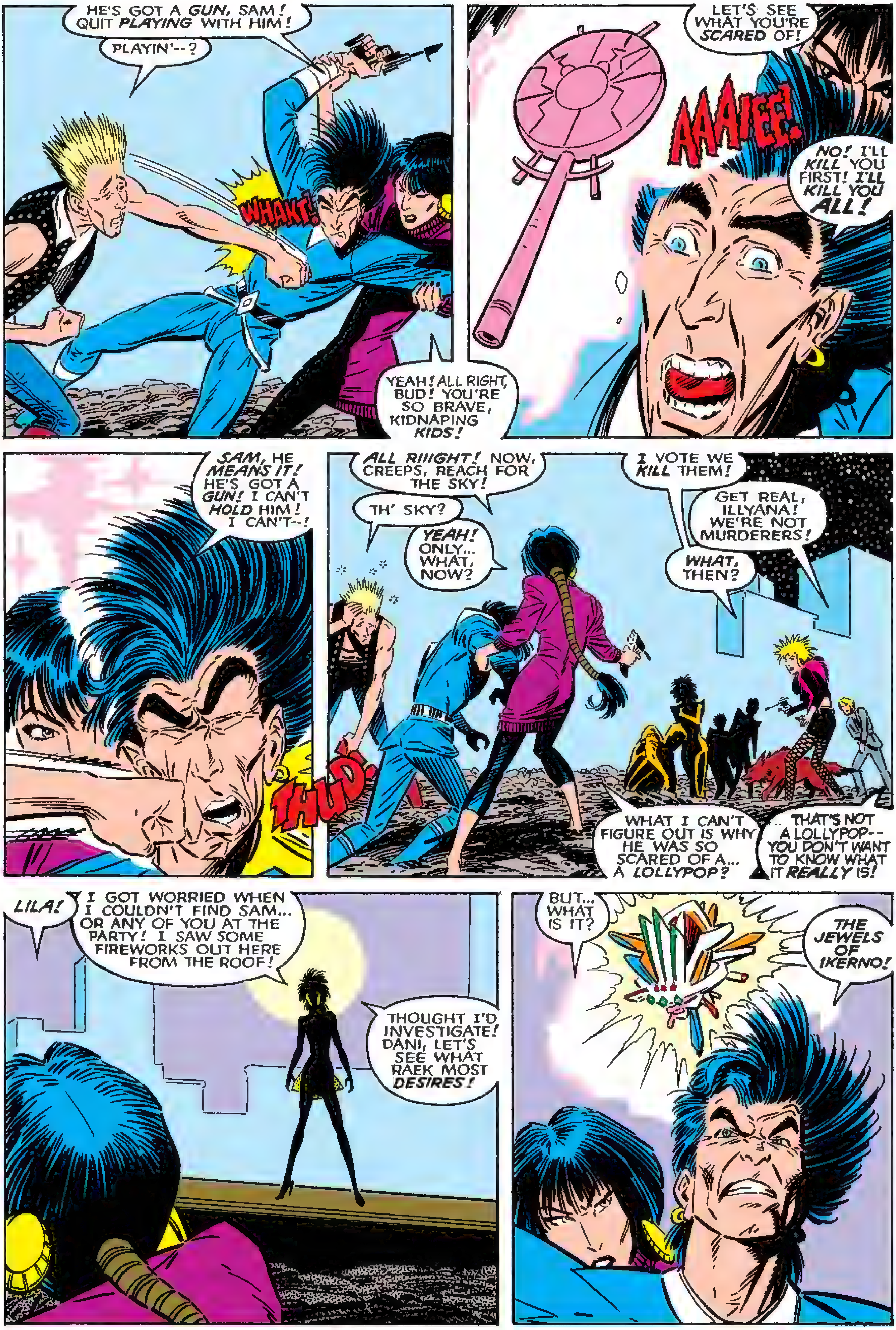

...ugnnnh...
WHA'S GOIN ON?
...FLYIN'... NOT BLASTIN'! SOME'UN CARRYIN' ME!
WHO...? FELLA...GAVE ME THOSE PILLS! FELLA WITH--
WINGS!?!
WHOOSH!
HEY!
<SO, IT'LL BE EASY? DRUG HIM AND DUMP HIM-->
<--AND TOMORROW ONE MORE HUMAN TEEN-AGE JUNKIE WASHES ASHORE! A NORMAL PART OF EVERY-DAY EARTH CULTURE!>
<IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED! LILA SAW HOW HE WAS ACTING! NO WAY SHE'D CONNECT IT WITH US!
<NOW WE DO IT THE OLD FASHIONED WAY!>
TIRED...REAL TIRED!
GOTTA STAY AWAKE... GET AWAY...
BURN HIM!
ZAPT! ZAPT! ZAPT! ZAPT!
SHOOTIN'... CAN'T HURT ME ...NOT WHILE I'M BLASTIN'!
MIGHT HURT FOLKS DOWN BELOW...GOTTA TURN 'ROUND... STOP 'EM...
SO TIRED...CAN'T HARDLY...STAY... AWAKE...
WHAM
YEII!

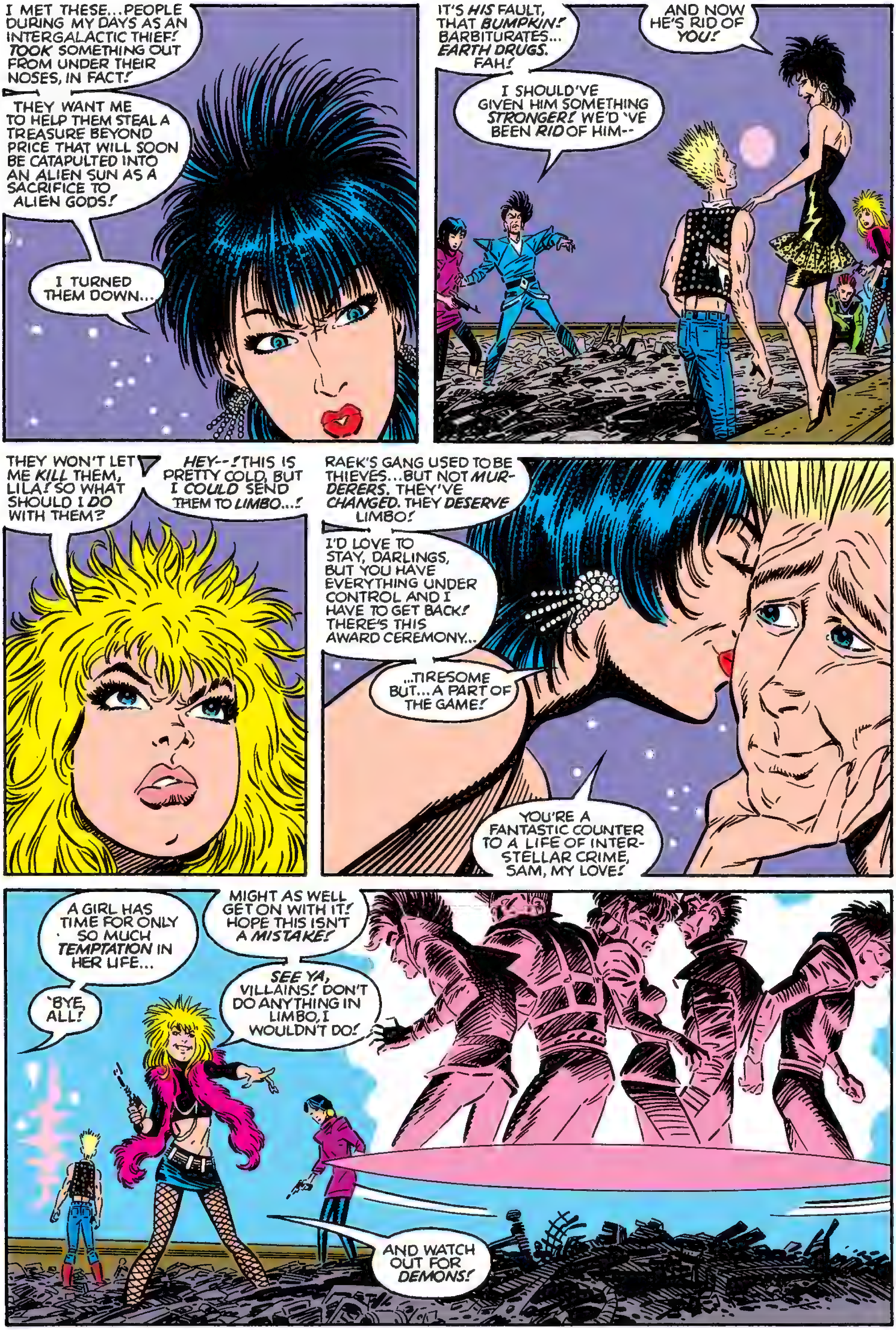

ZAPT!
SWELL, GUTHRIE... NODDED OFF... FORGOT TA BLAST!
HE'S OUT OF IT! HE'S LOST POWER! BURN HIM!
AARGH!
SIDE... KILLIN' ME! WOKE ME UP, GOOD, THOUGH! WHAT'D THEY USE ON ME, ANYHOW?
BARBITURATES! WORTHLESS EARTH NARCOTIC! YOU SHOULD HAVE USED SOMETHING STRONGER, RAEK! ONE OF OUR DRUGS!
‹AND TIP OFF LILA? FOOL! THE DOSAGE HE TOOK... HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BREATHE!
PROVED YOU'RE A COUNTRY BUMPKIN, DIDN'T YOU, GUTHRIE?
GET THE BOY FEELIN' SORRY FOR HIMSELF, GET HIM LOOPED, THEN MUG HIM!
THAT TRICK WAS OLD WHEN ABRAHAM WAS YOUNG AN' AH FELL FOR IT!
WITHOUT MAH OLD TEACHER'S, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S, TRAININ' TA RESIST MIND TAMPERIN', AH'D BE A GONER ALREADY!
CRAASH!
STILL MIGHT BE! BET XAVIER NEVER THOUGHT HIS TEACHIN'D SAVE ME FROM MAH OWN STUPIDITY!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
‹THERE'S MORE TO THE BOY THAN MEETS THE EYE! AN UNPARALLELED ZEST FOR DESTRUCTION!›
‹I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED LILA'S JUDGMENT! A PITY OUR ACQUAINTANCE WILL PROVE SO SHORT-LIVED!›

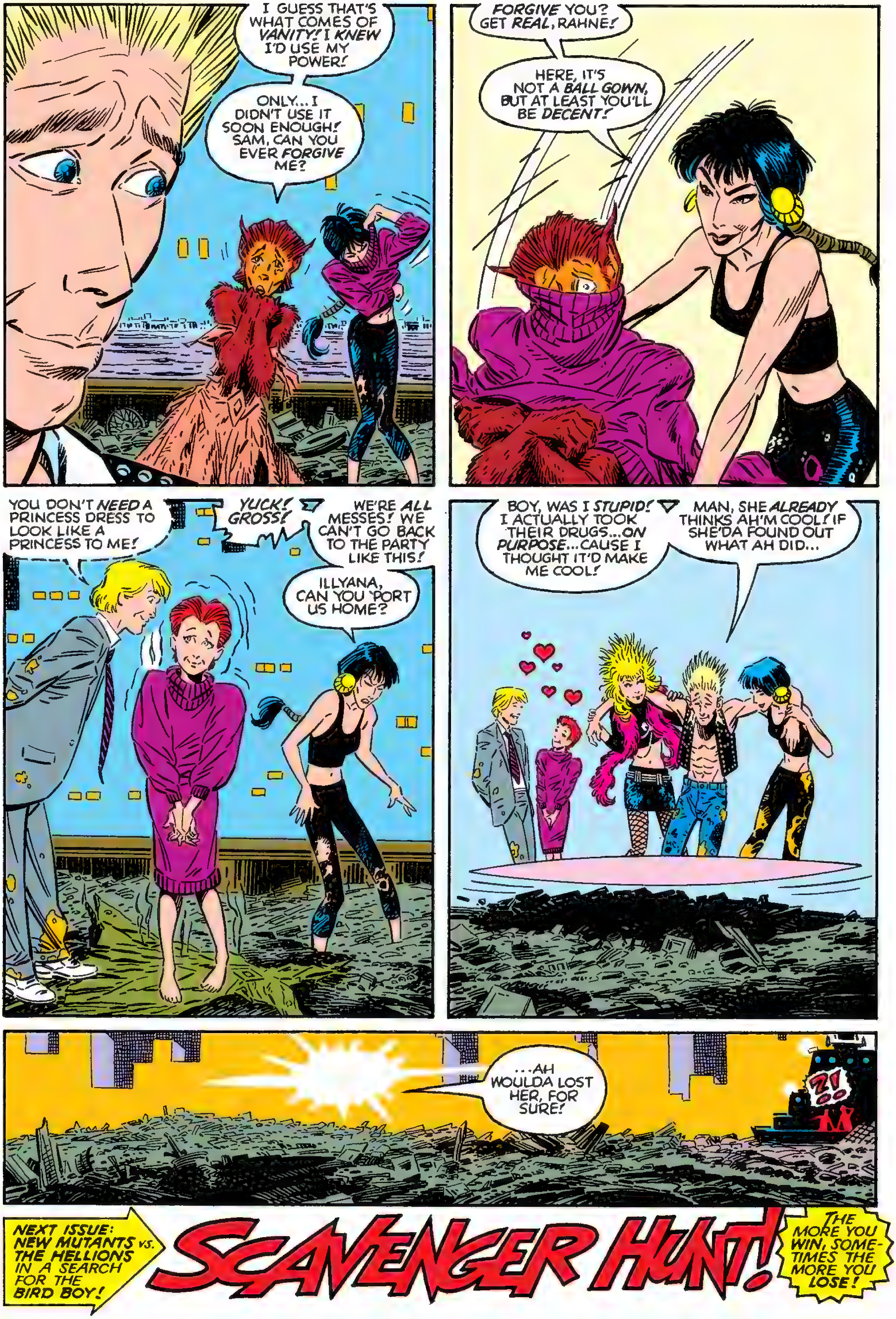

Meanwhile...
'SCUSE ME!
PARDON ME!
'SCUSE ME!
IF ONLY I'D WORN MY OLD CLOTHES. I COULD'VE SWITCHED TO MY WOLF FORM AND--
YOU STILL COULD SWITCH!
I'D RIP MY GOWN. IT'S SPECIAL! YOU SAW! YOU HEARD MAGNETO! IT MAKES ME--
Oh, NEVER MIND! HURRY! THEY'RE NOT BELOW...
"...THEY MUST BE UP HERE!"
DANI! ILLYANA! IT'S SAM! SOME ALIENS WITH WINGS TOOK HIM AND--
THEY'RE NOT LISTENING! MAYBE IT'S TOO LOUD FOR THEM TO HEAR?
THEY GOTTA LISTEN... WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR NOT!
ILLYANA, COME ON!
DON'T GO AWAY, WE'LL BE BACK! REALLY! HONEST!
ZAP
YOU'RE RUINING THE MOST PERFECT EVENING OF OUR LIVES! THIS BETTER BE GOOD!
BUT YOU-- oh, NO! LOOK!
SAM'S BLAST! WHAT--?
HE WAS KIDNAPED BY ALIENS--FIVE OF THEM! THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU!
CRASH!


IT WASN'T *WATER* THAT EXPLODED JUST THEN!
Oh, *NO!* I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T CRASH THROUGH ANY SKY-SCRAPERS!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! ILLYANA, CAN YOU TELEPORT US THERE?
NO SWEAT! WHEREVER THERE *IS*...
...THAT'S WHERE WE'RE *GOING!*
Oh, NO!
GROSS OUT!
IT FIGURES!
MY *DRESS!*
A GARBAGE BARGE!
THERE'S *SAM!*
STAY... BACK... TH'RE... DANG'ROUS!
JUST 'CAUSE AH LET MAHSELF... GET SCREWED UP... DON'T MEAN AH CAN LET *YOU!*
IS HE *NUTS?*
P'RHAPS *I* AM! I SHOULD'VE DONE THIS *EARLIER*, BUT MY ACCURSED VANITY...!
RIPPP!
GRRRRR
Oh, SAM, CAN YOU EVER *FORGIVE* ME?

GRR KRRR!
SPLOOSH!
⟨A SHAPE-SHIFTER!⟩
⟨BURN HER!⟩
NO! RAHNE--WATCH OUT!
SPLAPT!
ZAPT!
LEAVE HER *ALONE!*
GUNCH
HEY! I *DID* IT! I *STOPPED* HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I--
AAAGH!
ZAPT!
DOUG!
DOUG! NO!
ZAPT!
SNATCH!


HE'S GOT A *GUN*, SAM! QUIT *PLAYING* WITH HIM!
PLAYIN'--?
WHAKT!
YEAH! ALL RIGHT, BUD! YOU'RE SO BRAVE, KIDNAPING *KIDS*!
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'RE *SCARED* OF!
AAAIEE!
NO! I'LL *KILL* YOU FIRST! *I'LL KILL* YOU *ALL!*
SAM, HE *MEANS IT!* HE'S GOT A *GUN!* I CAN'T *HOLD* HIM! I CAN'T--!
THUD!
ALL RIIIGHT! NOW, CREEPS, REACH FOR THE SKY!
TH' SKY?
YEAH! ONLY... WHAT, NOW?
I VOTE WE *KILL* THEM!
GET REAL, ILLYANA! WE'RE NOT MURDERERS!
WHAT, THEN?
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IS WHY HE WAS SO SCARED OF A... A *LOLLYPOP?*
THAT'S NOT A LOLLYPOP-- YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT *REALLY* IS!
LILA!
I GOT WORRIED WHEN I COULDN'T FIND SAM... OR ANY OF YOU AT THE PARTY! I SAW SOME FIREWORKS OUT HERE FROM THE ROOF!
THOUGHT I'D INVESTIGATE! DANI, LET'S SEE WHAT RAEK MOST *DESIRES!*
BUT... WHAT IS IT?
THE JEWELS OF IKERNO!


I MET THESE...PEOPLE DURING MY DAYS AS AN INTERGALACTIC THIEF! *TOOK* SOMETHING OUT FROM UNDER THEIR NOSES, IN FACT!
THEY WANT ME TO HELP THEM STEAL A TREASURE BEYOND PRICE THAT WILL SOON BE CATAPULTED INTO AN ALIEN SUN AS A SACRIFICE TO ALIEN GODS!
I TURNED THEM DOWN...
IT'S *HIS* FAULT, THAT *BUMPKIN!* BARBITURATES... *EARTH DRUGS.* FAH!
AND NOW HE'S RID OF *YOU!*
I SHOULD'VE GIVEN HIM SOMETHING *STRONGER!* WE'D 'VE BEEN *RID* OF HIM--
THEY WON'T LET ME *KILL* THEM, LILA! SO WHAT SHOULD I *DO* WITH THEM?
HEY--! THIS IS PRETTY COLD, BUT I *COULD* SEND THEM TO *LIMBO...!*
RAEK'S GANG USED TO BE THIEVES...BUT NOT *MURDERERS.* THEY'VE *CHANGED.* THEY *DESERVE* LIMBO!
I'D LOVE TO STAY, DARLINGS, BUT YOU HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL AND I HAVE TO GET BACK! THERE'S THIS AWARD CEREMONY...
...TIRESOME BUT...A PART OF THE GAME!
YOU'RE A FANTASTIC COUNTER TO A LIFE OF INTERSTELLAR CRIME, SAM, MY LOVE!
A GIRL HAS TIME FOR ONLY SO MUCH *TEMPTATION* IN HER LIFE...
'BYE, ALL!
MIGHT AS WELL GET ON WITH IT! HOPE THIS ISN'T A *MISTAKE!*
SEE YA, VILLAINS! DON'T DO ANYTHING IN LIMBO, I WOULDN'T DO!
AND WATCH OUT FOR *DEMONS!*


I GUESS THAT'S WHAT COMES OF VANITY! I KNEW I'D USE MY POWER!
ONLY... I DIDN'T USE IT SOON ENOUGH! SAM, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
FORGIVE YOU? GET REAL, RAHNE!
HERE, IT'S NOT A BALL GOWN, BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL BE DECENT!
YOU DON'T NEED A PRINCESS DRESS TO LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS TO ME!
YUCK! GROSS!
WE'RE ALL MESSES! WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE PARTY LIKE THIS!
ILLYANA, CAN YOU 'PORT US HOME?
BOY, WAS I STUPID! I ACTUALLY TOOK THEIR DRUGS...ON PURPOSE...CAUSE I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE ME COOL!
MAN, SHE ALREADY THINKS AH'M COOL! IF SHE'DA FOUND OUT WHAT AH DID...
...AH WOULDA LOST HER, FOR SURE!
?!
NEXT ISSUE: NEW MUTANTS VS. THE HELLIONS IN A SEARCH FOR THE BIRD BOY!
SCAVENGER HUNT!
THE MORE YOU WIN, SOMETIMES THE MORE YOU LOSE!

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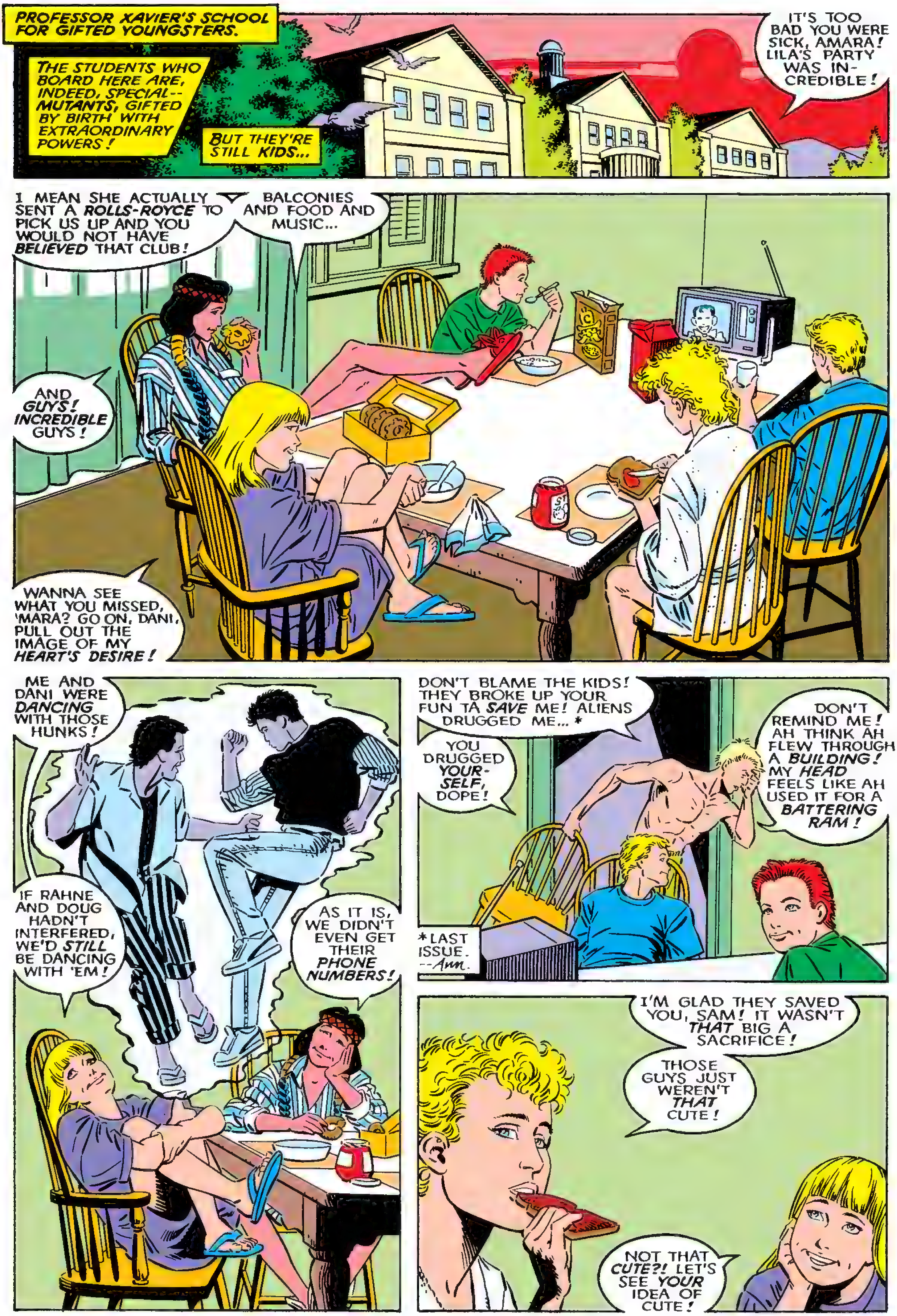
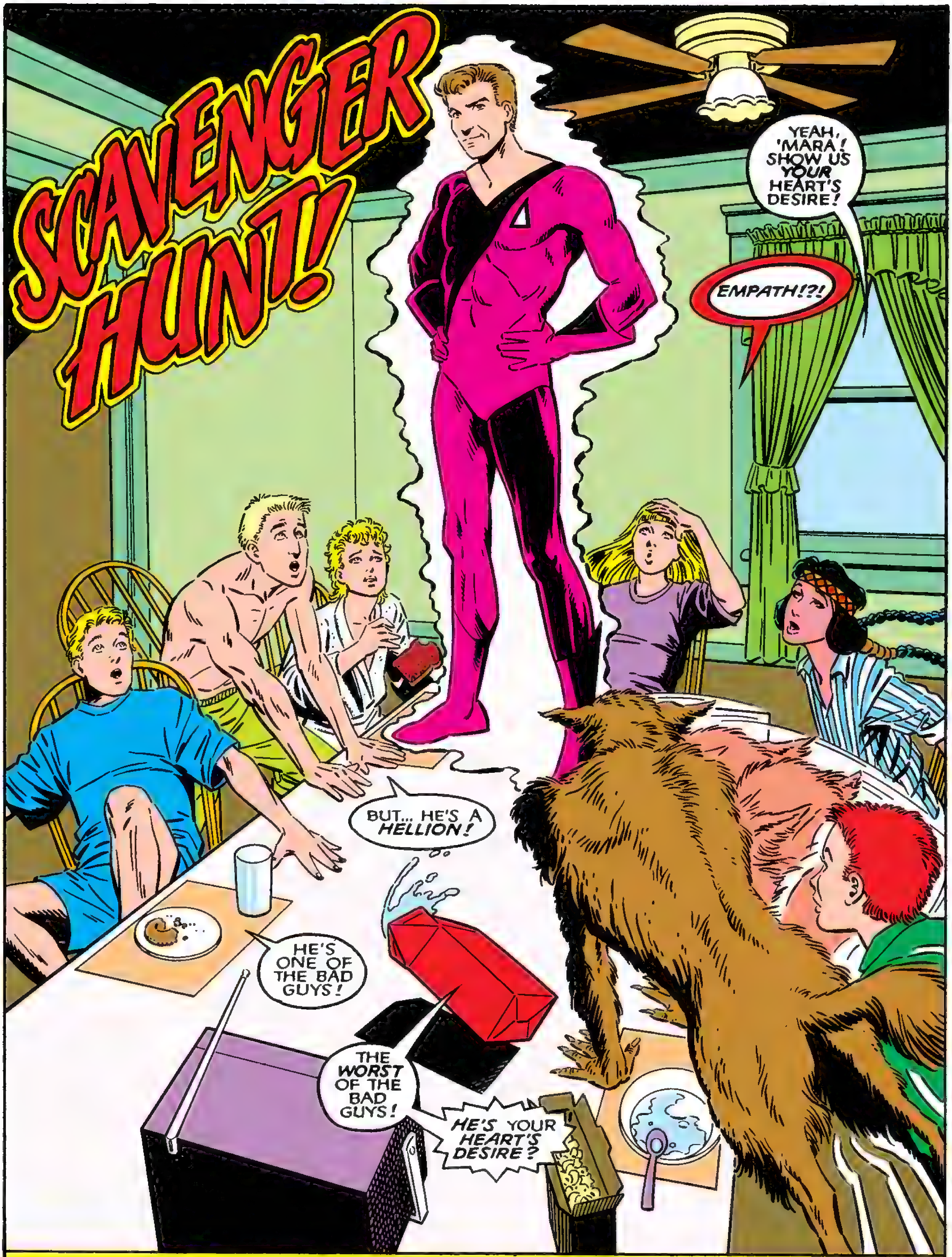

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
THE STUDENTS WHO BOARD HERE ARE, INDEED, SPECIAL--MUTANTS, GIFTED BY BIRTH WITH EXTRAORDINARY POWERS!
BUT THEY'RE STILL KIDS...
IT'S TOO BAD YOU WERE SICK, AMARA! LILA'S PARTY WAS INCREDIBLE!
I MEAN SHE ACTUALLY SENT A ROLLS-ROYCE TO PICK US UP AND YOU WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED THAT CLUB!
BALCONIES AND FOOD AND MUSIC...
AND GUYS! INCREDIBLE GUYS!
WANNA SEE WHAT YOU MISSED, 'MARA? GO ON, DANI, PULL OUT THE IMAGE OF MY HEART'S DESIRE!
ME AND DANI WERE DANCING WITH THOSE HUNKS!
IF RAHNE AND DOUG HADN'T INTERFERED, WE'D STILL BE DANCING WITH 'EM!
AS IT IS, WE DIDN'T EVEN GET THEIR PHONE NUMBERS!
DON'T BLAME THE KIDS! THEY BROKE UP YOUR FUN TA SAVE ME! ALIENS DRUGGED ME... *
YOU DRUGGED YOURSELF, DOPE!
DON'T REMIND ME! AH THINK AH FLEW THROUGH A BUILDING! MY HEAD FEELS LIKE AH USED IT FOR A BATTERING RAM!
*LAST ISSUE. --Ann.
I'M GLAD THEY SAVED YOU, SAM! IT WASN'T THAT BIG A SACRIFICE!
THOSE GUYS JUST WEREN'T THAT CUTE!
NOT THAT CUTE?! LET'S SEE YOUR IDEA OF CUTE!


SCAVENGER HUNT!
YEAH, 'MARA! SHOW US YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
EMPATH!?!
BUT... HE'S A HELLION!
HE'S ONE OF THE BAD GUYS!
THE WORST OF THE BAD GUYS!
HE'S YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?

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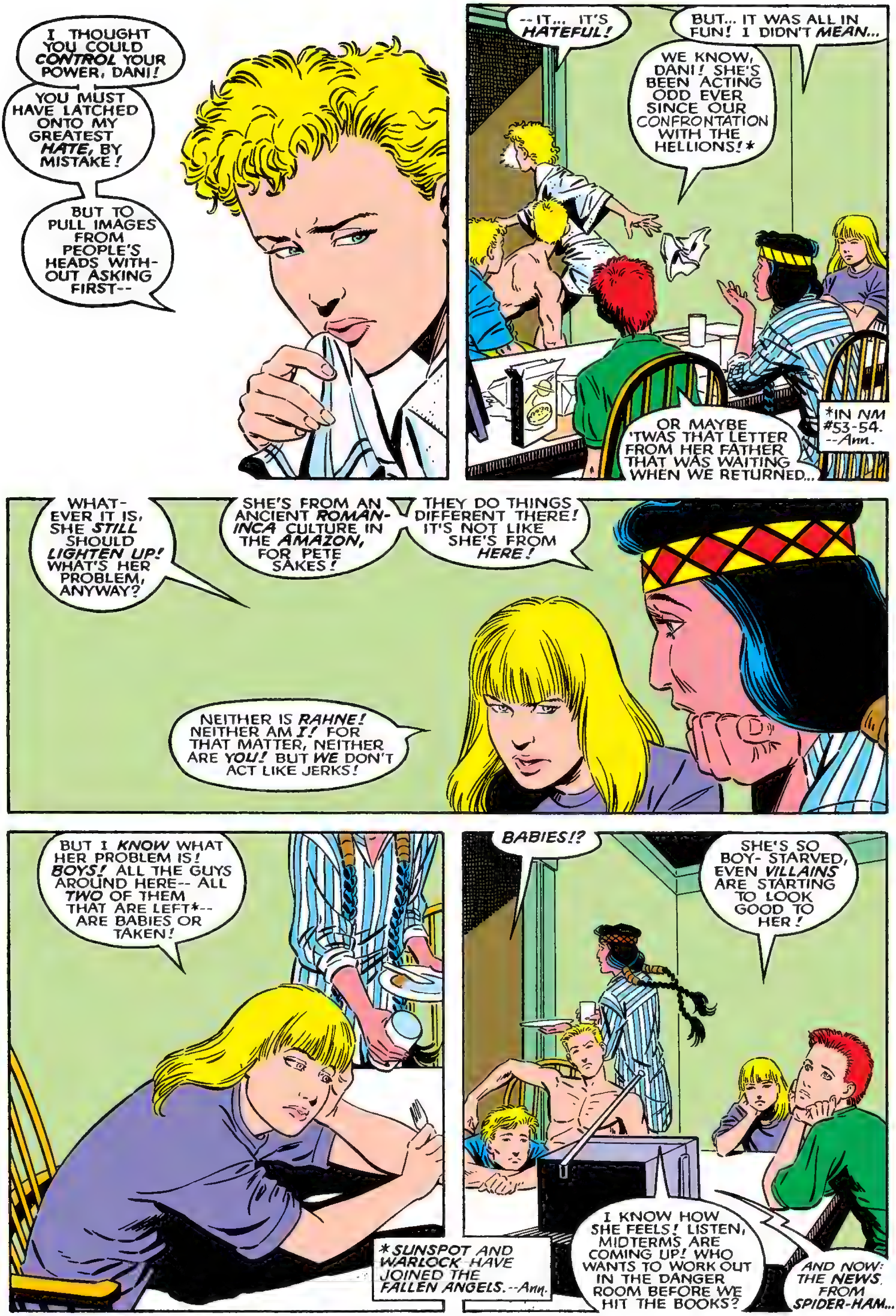
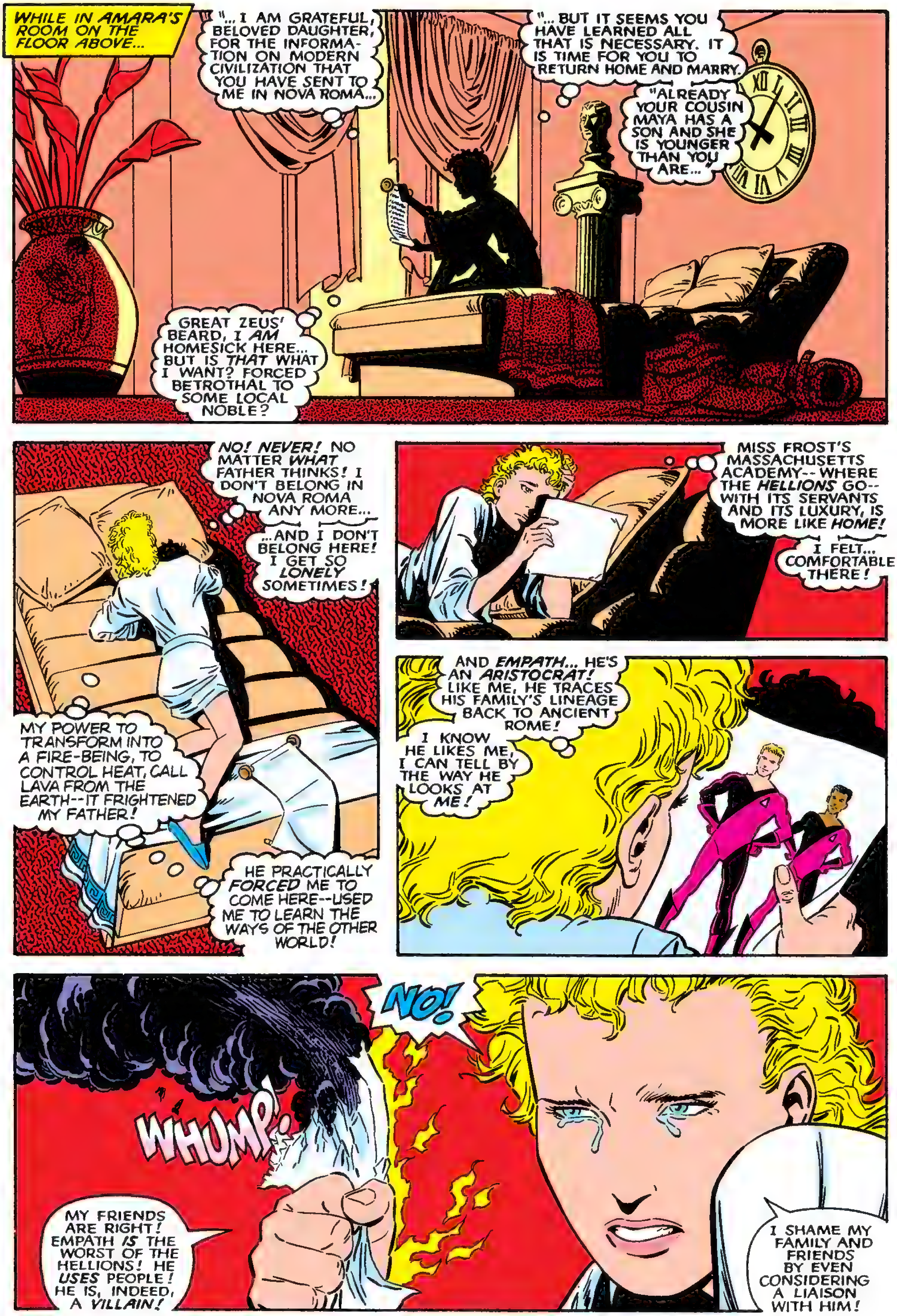
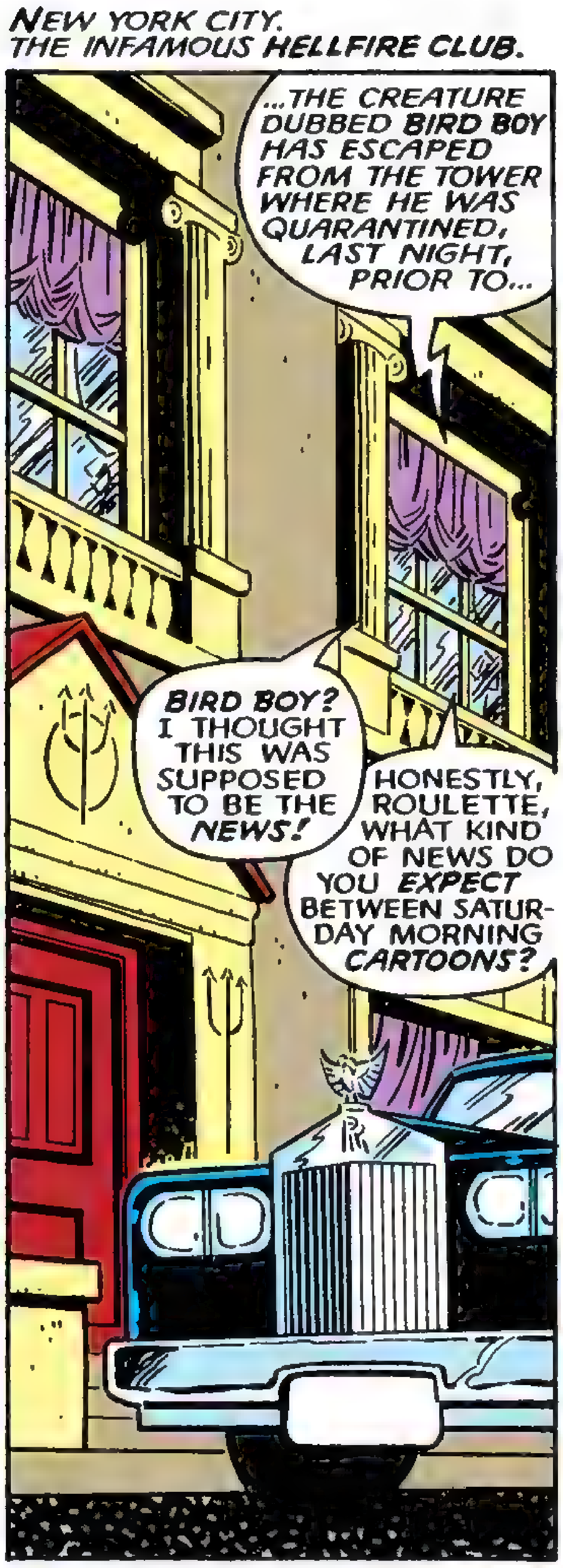
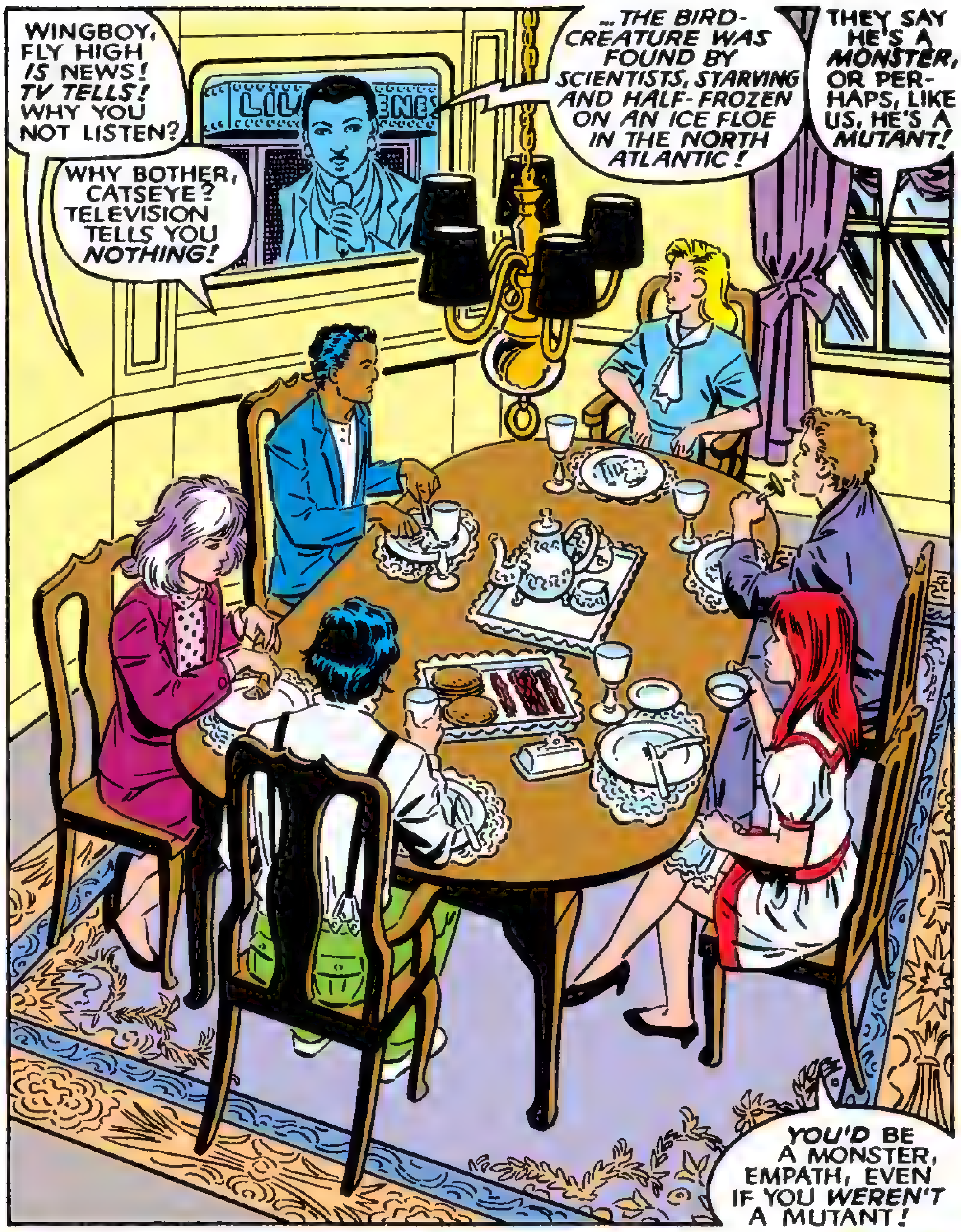
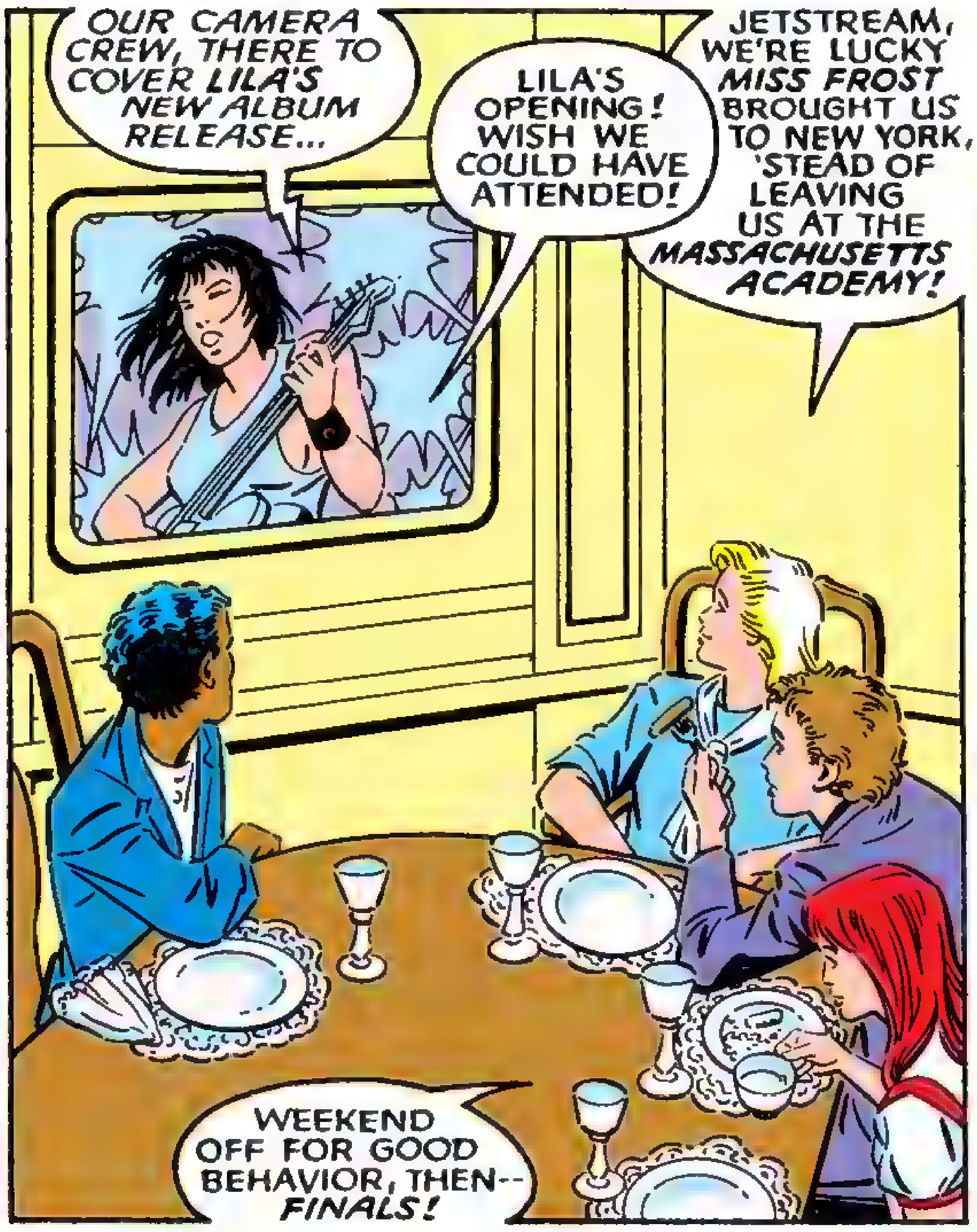
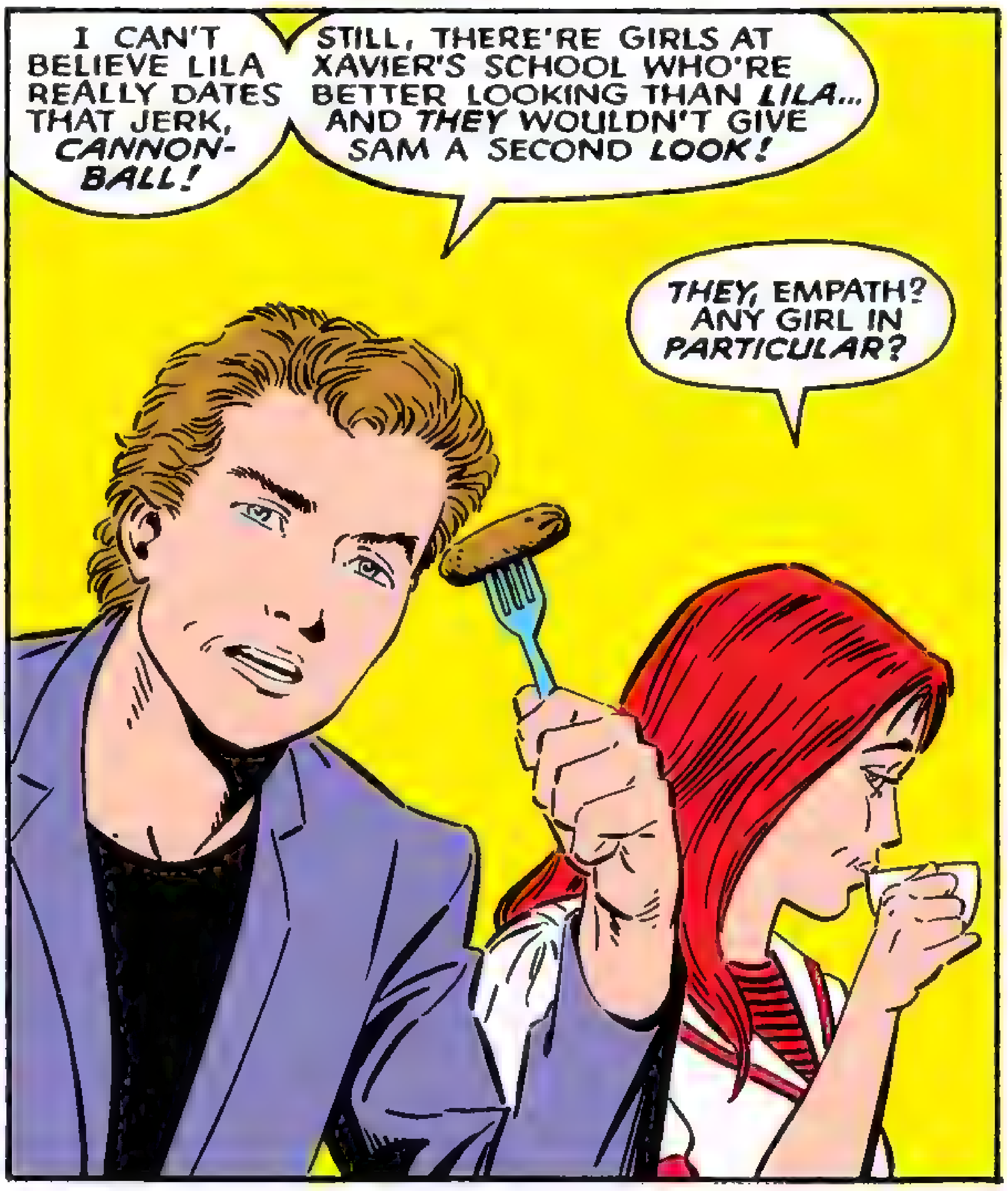

I THOUGHT YOU COULD ***CONTROL*** YOUR POWER, DANI!
YOU MUST HAVE LATCHED ONTO MY GREATEST ***HATE,*** BY MISTAKE!
BUT TO PULL IMAGES FROM PEOPLE'S HEADS WITHOUT ASKING FIRST--
--IT... IT'S ***HATEFUL!***
BUT... IT WAS ALL IN FUN! I DIDN'T ***MEAN...***
WE KNOW, DANI! SHE'S BEEN ACTING ODD EVER SINCE OUR CONFRONTATION WITH THE HELLIONS!*
OR MAYBE 'TWAS THAT LETTER FROM HER FATHER THAT WAS WAITING WHEN WE RETURNED...
*IN *NM* #53-54. --*Ann.*
WHATEVER IT IS, SHE ***STILL*** SHOULD ***LIGHTEN UP!*** WHAT'S HER PROBLEM, ANYWAY?
SHE'S FROM AN ANCIENT ***ROMAN-INCA*** CULTURE IN THE ***AMAZON,*** FOR PETE SAKES!
THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENT THERE! IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S FROM ***HERE!***
NEITHER IS ***RAHNE!*** NEITHER AM ***I!*** FOR THAT MATTER, NEITHER ARE ***YOU!*** BUT ***WE*** DON'T ACT LIKE JERKS!
BUT I ***KNOW*** WHAT HER PROBLEM IS! ***BOYS!*** ALL THE GUYS AROUND HERE-- ALL ***TWO*** OF THEM THAT ARE LEFT*-- ARE BABIES OR TAKEN!
*SUNSPOT AND WARLOCK HAVE JOINED THE FALLEN ANGELS. --Ann.
BABIES!?
SHE'S SO BOY-STARVED, EVEN ***VILLAINS*** ARE STARTING TO LOOK GOOD TO HER!
I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS! LISTEN, MIDTERMS ARE COMING UP! WHO WANTS TO WORK OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM BEFORE WE HIT THE BOOKS?
AND NOW: THE ***NEWS*** FROM SPIDER-HAM...

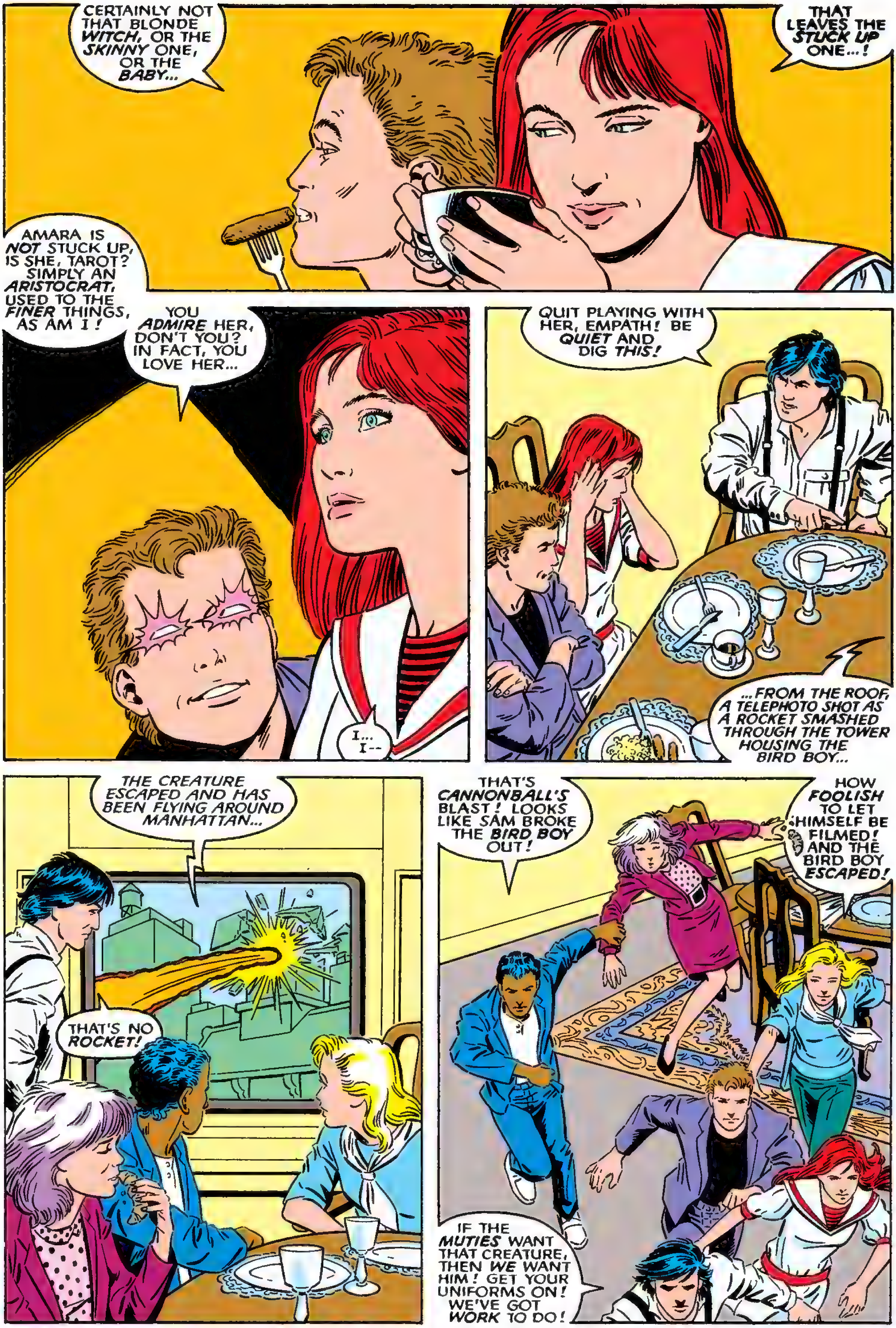

WHILE IN AMARA'S ROOM ON THE FLOOR ABOVE...
"...I AM GRATEFUL, BELOVED DAUGHTER, FOR THE INFORMATION ON MODERN CIVILIZATION THAT YOU HAVE SENT TO ME IN NOVA ROMA...
"...BUT IT SEEMS YOU HAVE LEARNED ALL THAT IS NECESSARY. IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN HOME AND MARRY.
"ALREADY YOUR COUSIN MAYA HAS A SON AND SHE IS YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE..."
GREAT ZEUS' BEARD, I AM HOMESICK HERE... BUT IS THAT WHAT I WANT? FORCED BETROTHAL TO SOME LOCAL NOBLE?
NO! NEVER! NO MATTER WHAT FATHER THINKS! I DON'T BELONG IN NOVA ROMA ANY MORE...
...AND I DON'T BELONG HERE! I GET SO LONELY SOMETIMES!
MY POWER TO TRANSFORM INTO A FIRE-BEING, TO CONTROL HEAT, CALL LAVA FROM THE EARTH--IT FRIGHTENED MY FATHER!
HE PRACTICALLY FORCED ME TO COME HERE--USED ME TO LEARN THE WAYS OF THE OTHER WORLD!
MISS FROST'S MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY-- WHERE THE HELLIONS GO-- WITH ITS SERVANTS AND ITS LUXURY, IS MORE LIKE HOME!
I FELT... COMFORTABLE THERE!
AND EMPATH... HE'S AN ARISTOCRAT! LIKE ME, HE TRACES HIS FAMILY'S LINEAGE BACK TO ANCIENT ROME!
I KNOW HE LIKES ME, I CAN TELL BY THE WAY HE LOOKS AT ME!
NO!
WHUMP!
MY FRIENDS ARE RIGHT! EMPATH IS THE WORST OF THE HELLIONS! HE USES PEOPLE! HE IS, INDEED, A VILLAIN!
I SHAME MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS BY EVEN CONSIDERING A LIAISON WITH HIM!

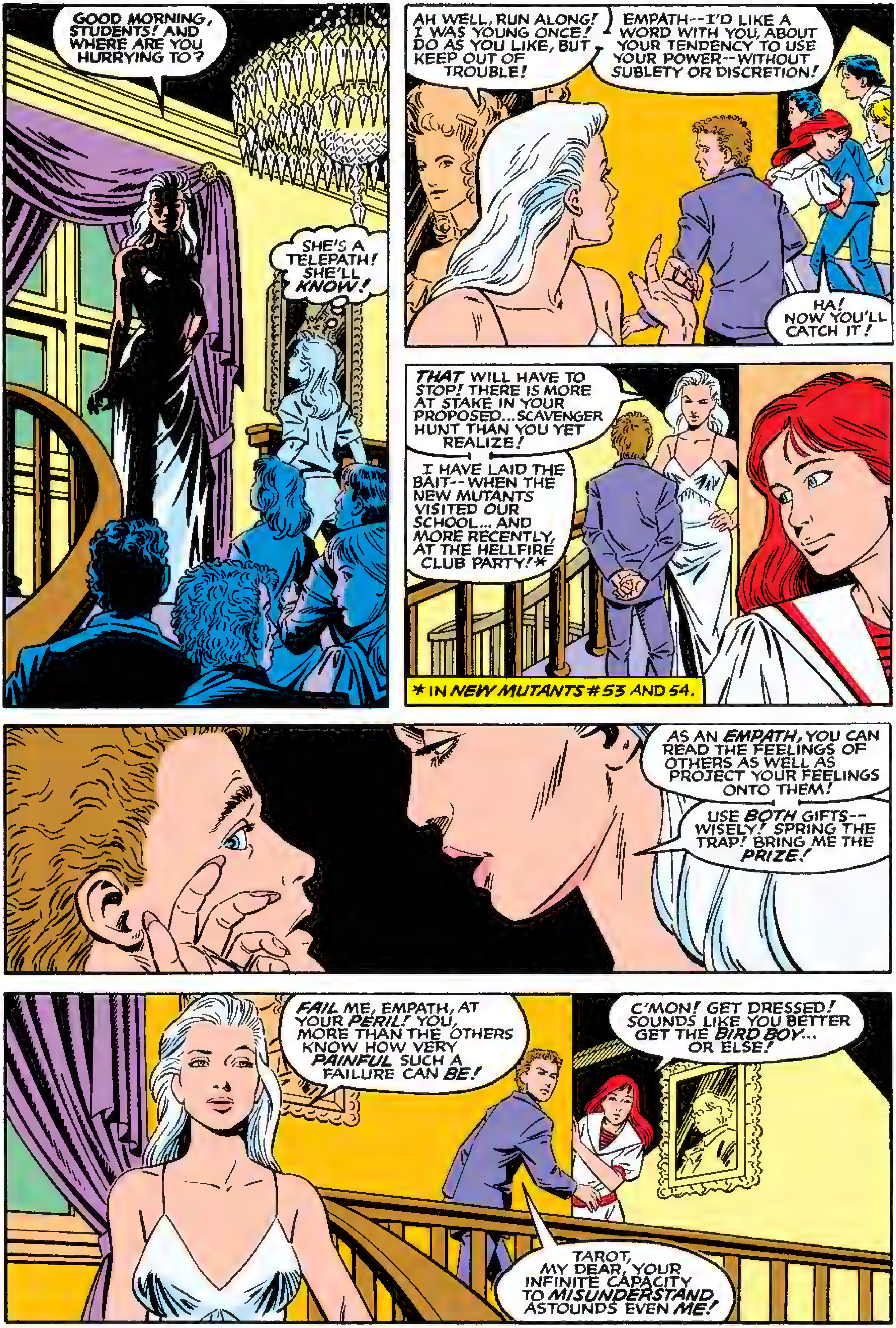

NEW YORK CITY. THE INFAMOUS HELLFIRE CLUB.
...THE CREATURE DUBBED BIRD BOY HAS ESCAPED FROM THE TOWER WHERE HE WAS QUARANTINED, LAST NIGHT, PRIOR TO...
BIRD BOY? I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEWS!
HONESTLY, ROULETTE, WHAT KIND OF NEWS DO YOU EXPECT BETWEEN SATURDAY MORNING CARTOONS?

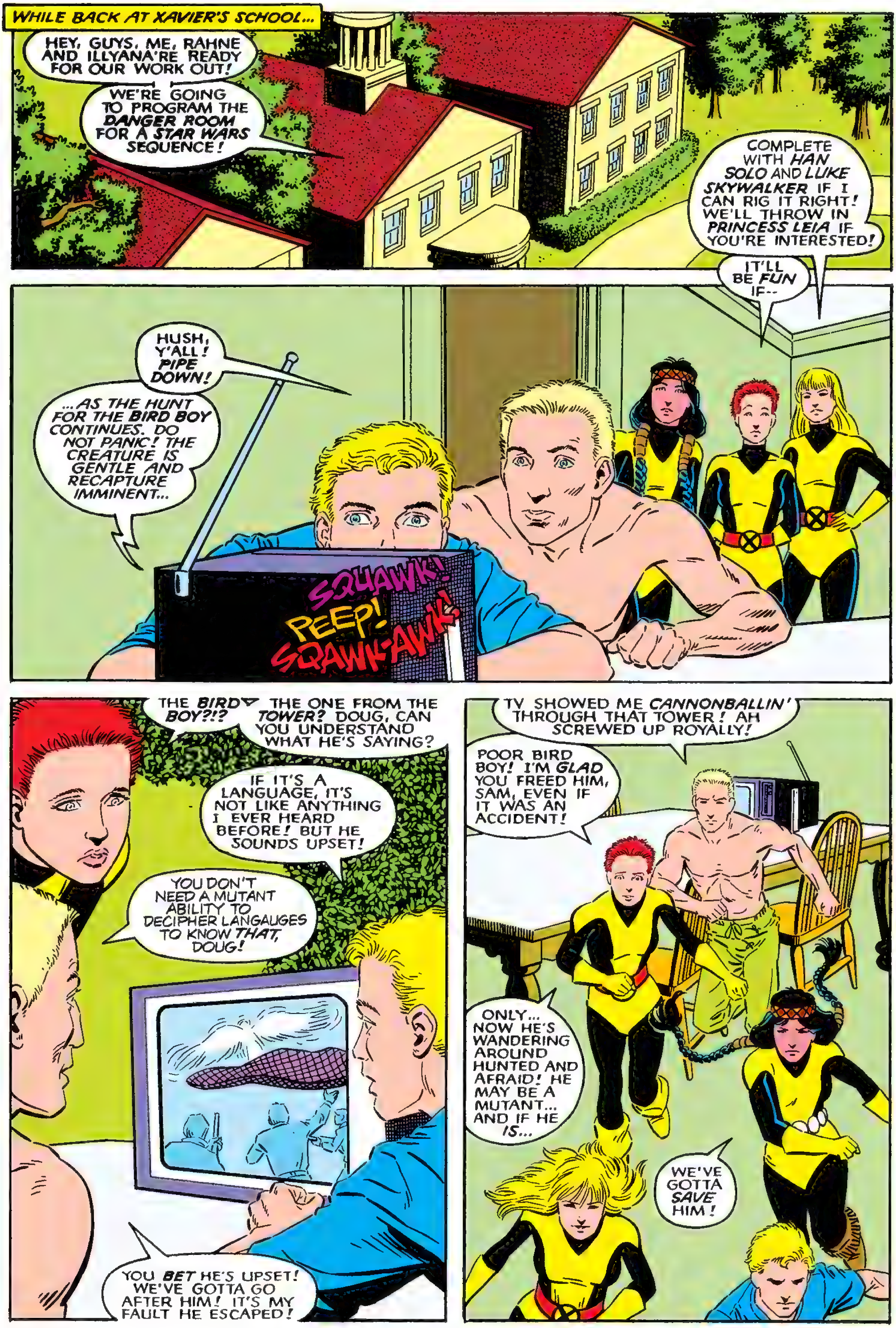

WINGBOY, FLY HIGH IS NEWS! TV TELLS! WHY YOU NOT LISTEN?
LILA
...THE BIRD-CREATURE WAS FOUND BY SCIENTISTS, STARVING AND HALF-FROZEN ON AN ICE FLOE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC!
THEY SAY HE'S A MONSTER, OR PERHAPS, LIKE US, HE'S A MUTANT!
WHY BOTHER, CATSEYE? TELEVISION TELLS YOU NOTHING!
YOU'D BE A MONSTER, EMPATH, EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T A MUTANT!

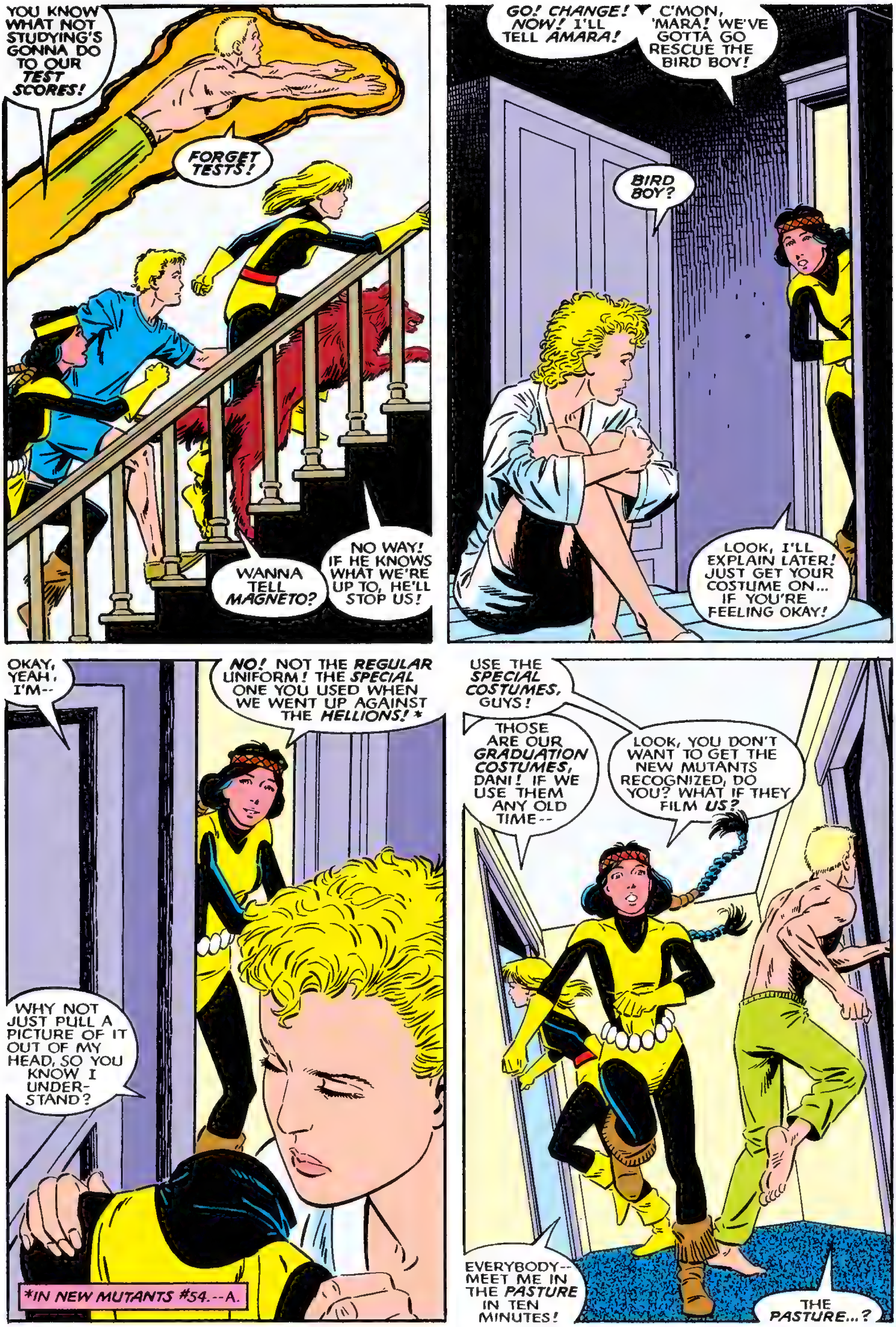

OUR CAMERA CREW, THERE TO COVER LILA'S NEW ALBUM RELEASE...
LILA'S OPENING! WISH WE COULD HAVE ATTENDED!
JETSTREAM, WE'RE LUCKY MISS FROST BROUGHT US TO NEW YORK, 'STEAD OF LEAVING US AT THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!
WEEKEND OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR, THEN-- FINALS!

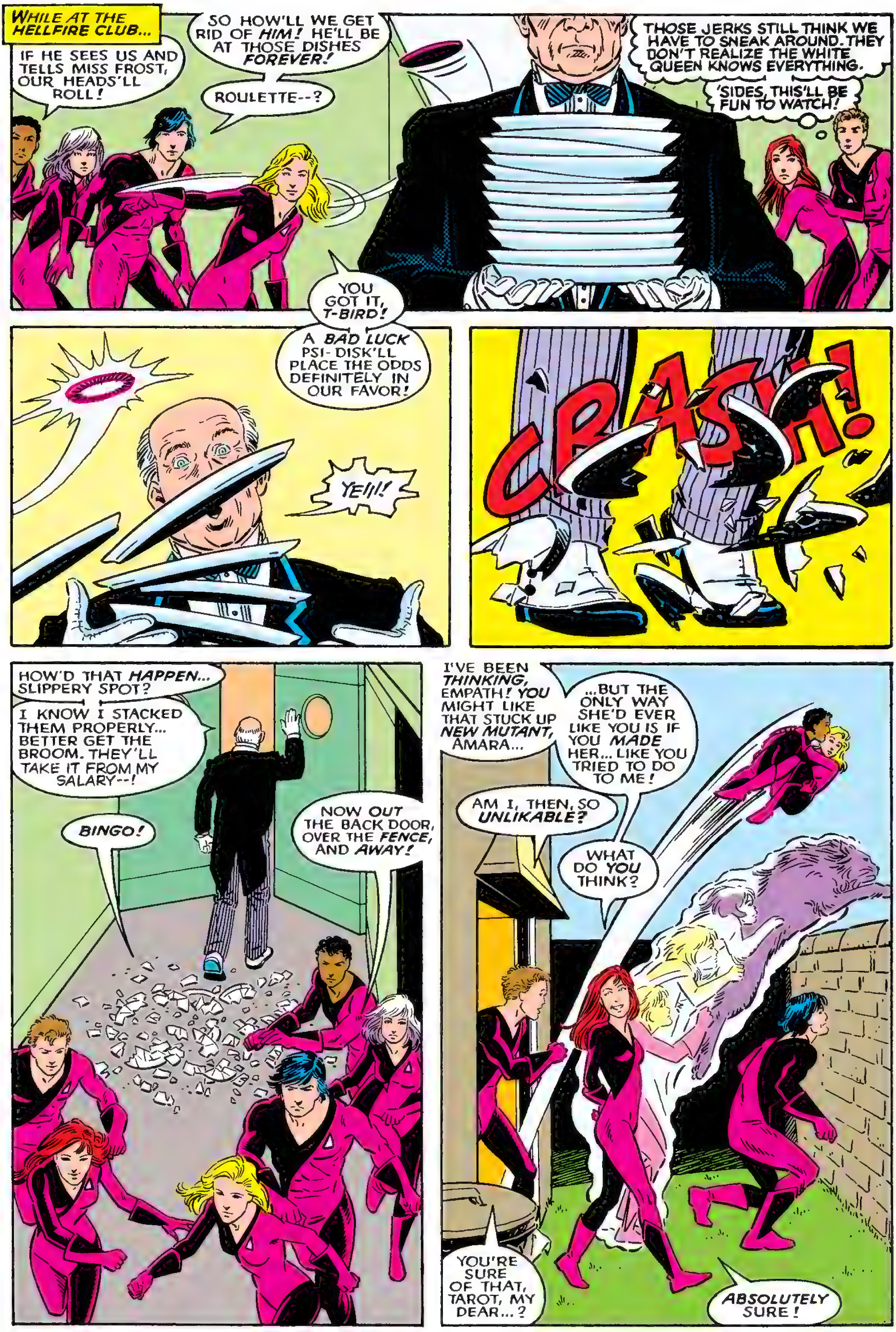

I CAN'T BELIEVE LILA REALLY DATES THAT JERK, CANNONBALL!
STILL, THERE'RE GIRLS AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL WHO'RE BETTER LOOKING THAN LILA... AND THEY WOULDN'T GIVE SAM A SECOND LOOK!
THEY, EMPATH? ANY GIRL IN PARTICULAR?

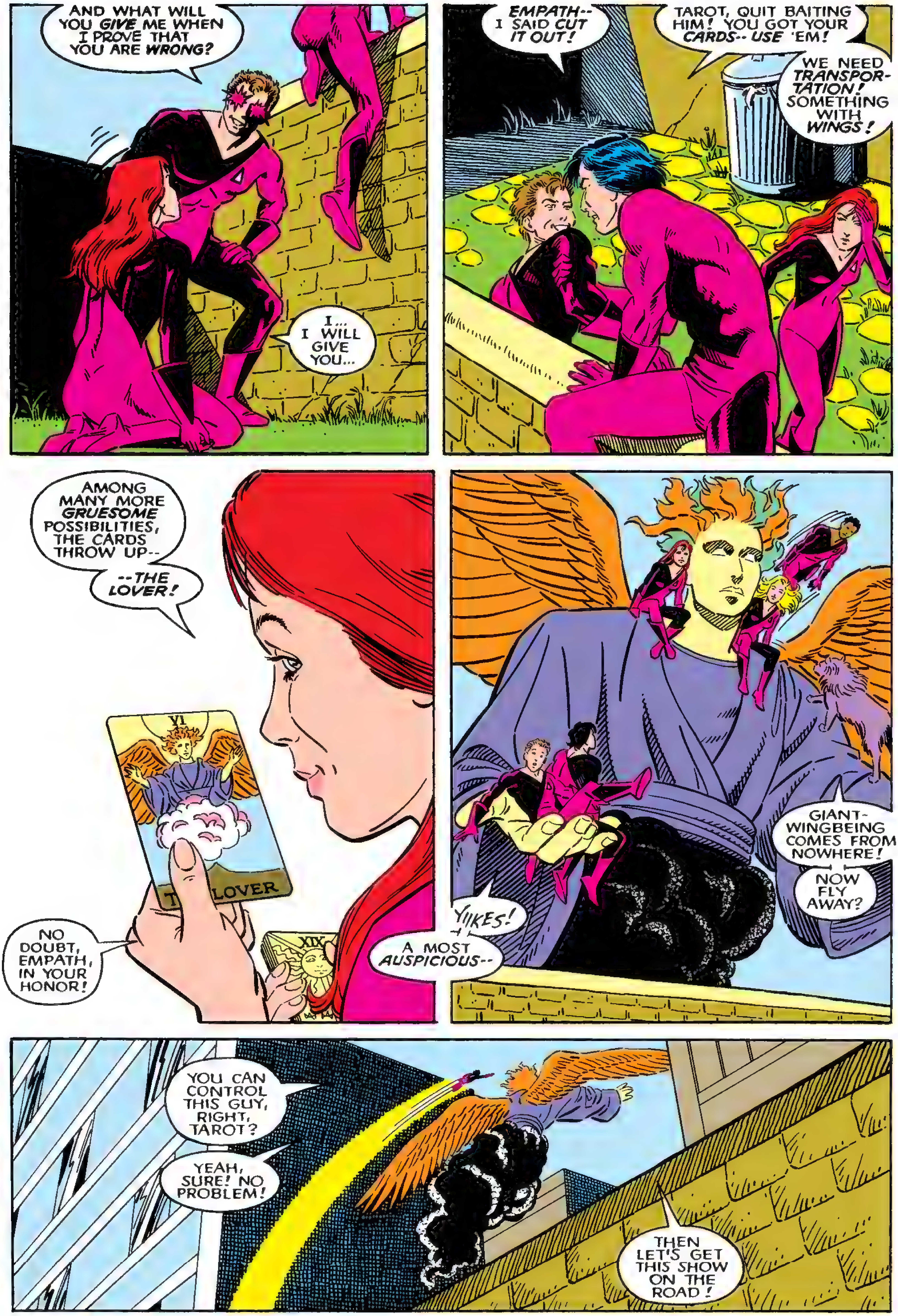

CERTAINLY NOT THAT BLONDE WITCH, OR THE SKINNY ONE, OR THE BABY...
THAT LEAVES THE STUCK UP ONE...!
AMARA IS NOT STUCK UP, IS SHE, TAROT? SIMPLY AN ARISTOCRAT, USED TO THE FINER THINGS, AS AM I!
YOU ADMIRE HER, DON'T YOU? IN FACT, YOU LOVE HER...
I... I--
QUIT PLAYING WITH HER, EMPATH! BE QUIET AND DIG THIS!
...FROM THE ROOF, A TELEPHOTO SHOT AS A ROCKET SMASHED THROUGH THE TOWER HOUSING THE BIRD BOY...
THE CREATURE ESCAPED AND HAS BEEN FLYING AROUND MANHATTAN...
THAT'S NO ROCKET!
THAT'S CANNONBALL'S BLAST! LOOKS LIKE SAM BROKE THE BIRD BOY OUT!
HOW FOOLISH TO LET HIMSELF BE FILMED! AND THE BIRD BOY ESCAPED!
IF THE MUTIES WANT THAT CREATURE, THEN WE WANT HIM! GET YOUR UNIFORMS ON! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

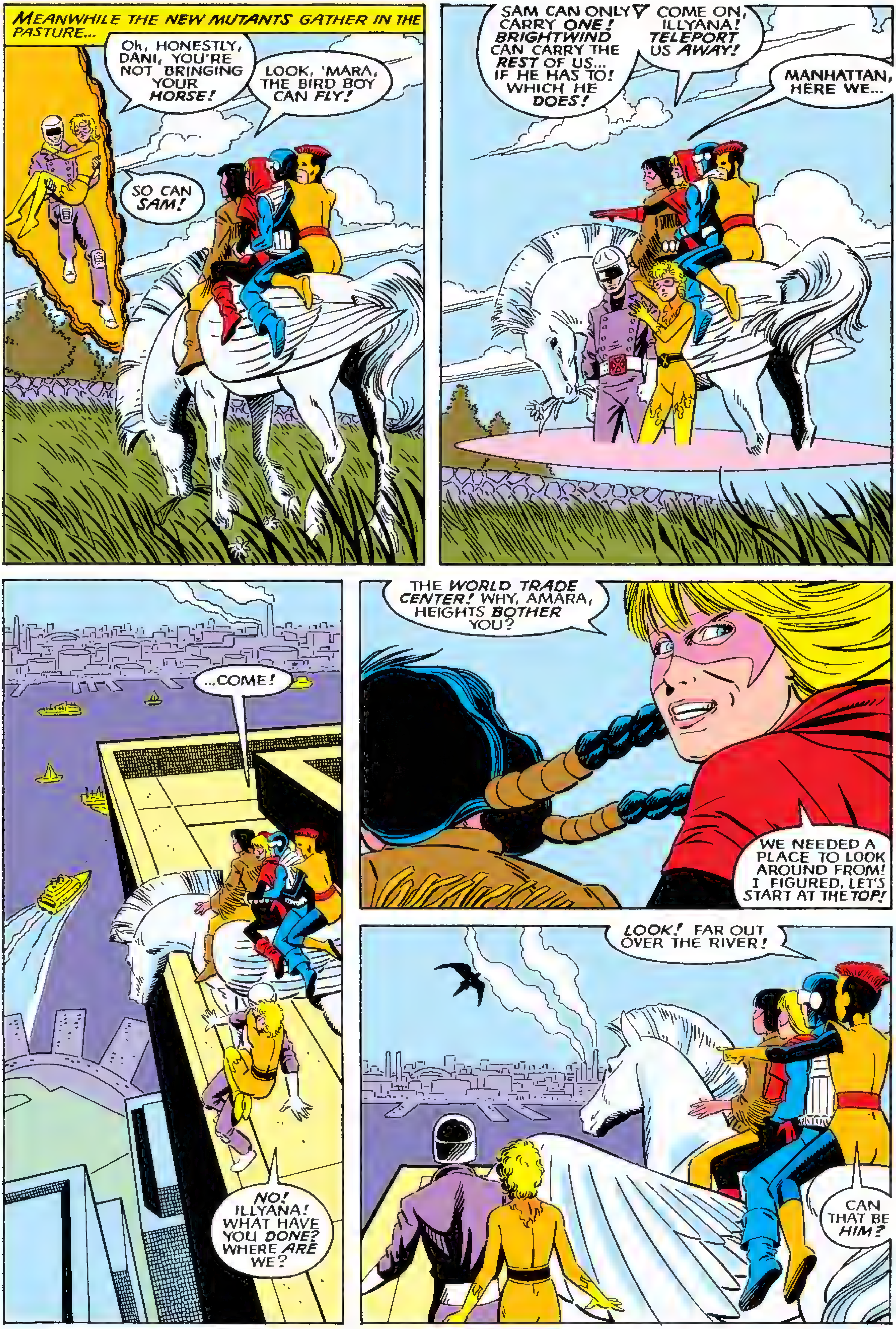

GOOD MORNING, STUDENTS! AND WHERE ARE YOU HURRYING TO?
SHE'S A TELEPATH! SHE'LL KNOW!
AH WELL, RUN ALONG! I WAS YOUNG ONCE! DO AS YOU LIKE, BUT KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE!
EMPATH--I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU, ABOUT YOUR TENDENCY TO USE YOUR POWER--WITHOUT SUBLETY OR DISCRETION!
HA! NOW YOU'LL CATCH IT!
THAT WILL HAVE TO STOP! THERE IS MORE AT STAKE IN YOUR PROPOSED...SCAVENGER HUNT THAN YOU YET REALIZE!
I HAVE LAID THE BAIT--WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS VISITED OUR SCHOOL... AND MORE RECENTLY, AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB PARTY!*
* IN NEW MUTANTS #53 AND 54.
AS AN EMPATH, YOU CAN READ THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS AS WELL AS PROJECT YOUR FEELINGS ONTO THEM!
USE BOTH GIFTS--WISELY! SPRING THE TRAP! BRING ME THE PRIZE!
FAIL ME, EMPATH, AT YOUR PERIL! YOU, MORE THAN THE OTHERS KNOW HOW VERY PAINFUL SUCH A FAILURE CAN BE!
C'MON! GET DRESSED! SOUNDS LIKE YOU BETTER GET THE BIRD BOY... OR ELSE!
TAROT, MY DEAR, YOUR INFINITE CAPACITY TO MISUNDERSTAND ASTOUNDS EVEN ME!

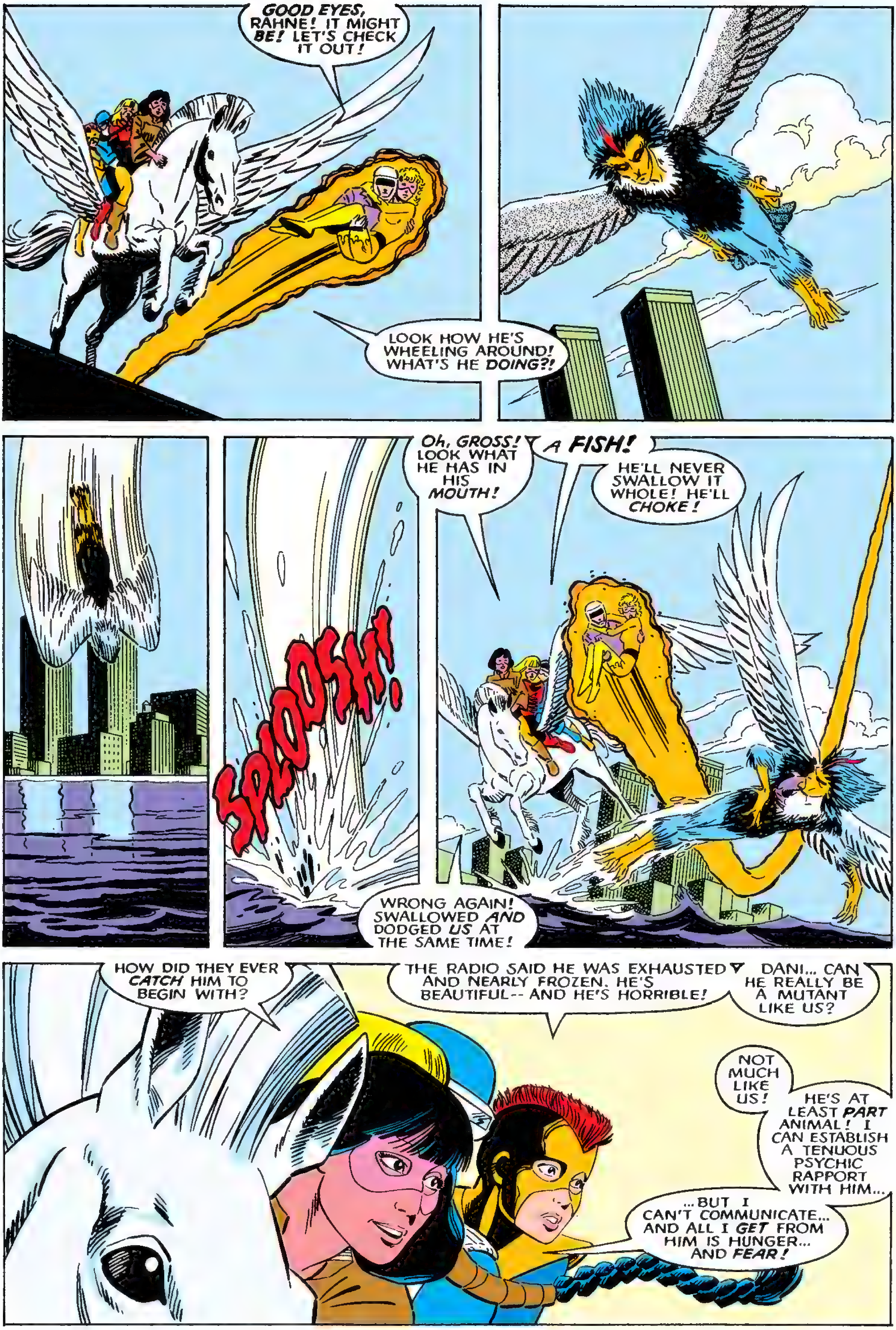

WHILE BACK AT XAVIER'S SCHOOL...
HEY, GUYS, ME, RAHNE AND ILLYANA'RE READY FOR OUR WORK OUT!
WE'RE GOING TO PROGRAM THE *DANGER ROOM* FOR A *STAR WARS* SEQUENCE!
COMPLETE WITH *HAN SOLO* AND *LUKE SKYWALKER* IF I CAN RIG IT RIGHT! WE'LL THROW IN *PRINCESS LEIA* IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!
IT'LL BE *FUN* IF--
HUSH, Y'ALL! *PIPE DOWN!*
...AS THE HUNT FOR THE BIRD BOY CONTINUES. DO NOT PANIC! THE CREATURE IS GENTLE AND RECAPTURE IMMINENT...
SQUAWK! PEEP! SQAWK-AWK!
THE *BIRD BOY?!?*
THE ONE FROM THE *TOWER?* DOUG, CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S SAYING?
IF IT'S A LANGUAGE, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING I EVER HEARD BEFORE! BUT HE SOUNDS UPSET!
YOU DON'T NEED A MUTANT ABILITY TO DECIPHER LANGAUGES TO KNOW *THAT,* DOUG!
YOU *BET* HE'S UPSET! WE'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM! IT'S MY FAULT HE ESCAPED!
TV SHOWED ME *CANNONBALLIN'* THROUGH THAT TOWER! AH SCREWED UP ROYALLY!
POOR BIRD BOY! I'M *GLAD* YOU FREED HIM, SAM, EVEN IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
ONLY... NOW HE'S WANDERING AROUND HUNTED AND AFRAID! HE MAY BE A MUTANT... AND IF HE *IS*...
WE'VE GOTTA *SAVE* HIM!

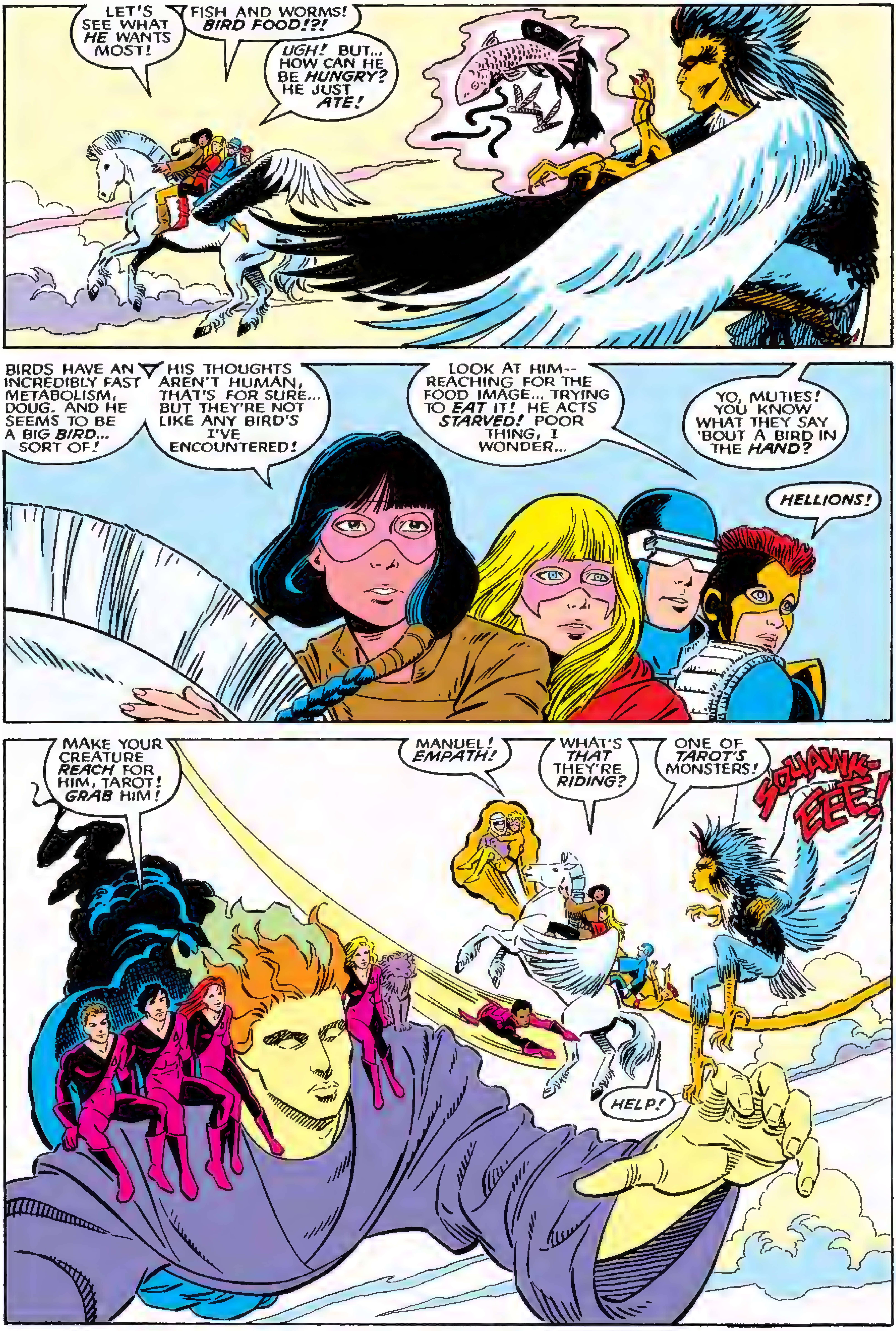

YOU KNOW WHAT NOT STUDYING'S GONNA DO TO OUR *TEST SCORES!*
FORGET TESTS!
WANNA TELL *MAGNETO?*
NO WAY! IF HE KNOWS WHAT WE'RE UP TO, HE'LL STOP US!
GO! CHANGE! NOW! I'LL TELL *AMARA!*
C'MON, 'MARA! WE'VE GOTTA GO RESCUE THE BIRD BOY!
BIRD BOY?
LOOK, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! JUST GET YOUR COSTUME ON... IF YOU'RE FEELING OKAY!
OKAY, YEAH, I'M--
NO! NOT THE *REGULAR* UNIFORM! THE *SPECIAL* ONE YOU USED WHEN WE WENT UP AGAINST THE *HELLIONS!* *
WHY NOT JUST PULL A PICTURE OF IT OUT OF MY HEAD, SO YOU KNOW I UNDERSTAND?
**IN NEW MUTANTS #54.--A.*
USE THE *SPECIAL COSTUMES,* GUYS!
THOSE ARE OUR *GRADUATION COSTUMES,* DANI! IF WE USE THEM ANY OLD TIME--
LOOK, YOU DON'T WANT TO GET THE NEW MUTANTS RECOGNIZED, DO YOU? WHAT IF THEY FILM *US?*
EVERYBODY-- MEET ME IN THE *PASTURE* IN TEN MINUTES!
THE *PASTURE...?*

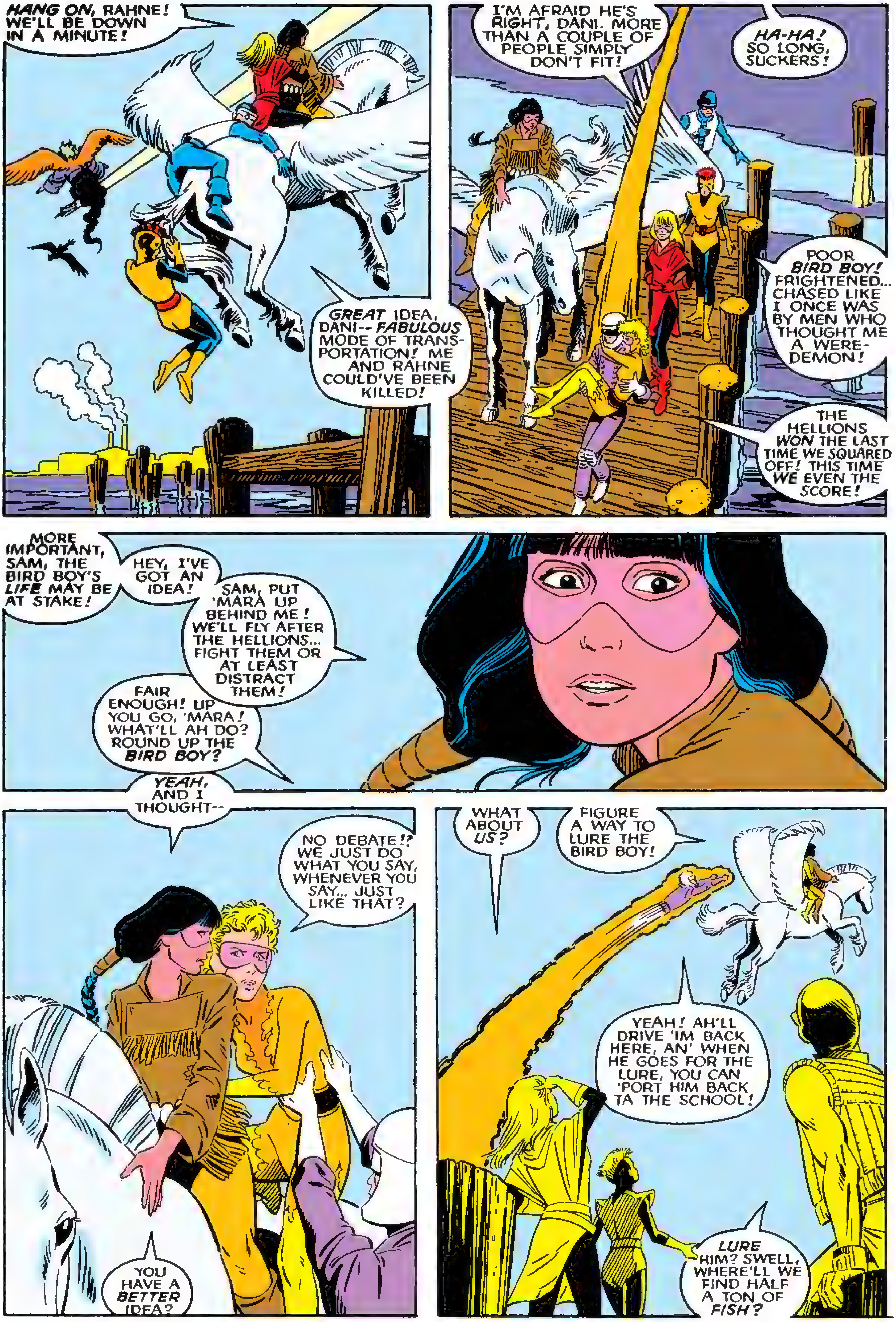

WHILE AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
IF HE SEES US AND TELLS MISS FROST, OUR HEADS'LL ROLL!
SO HOW'LL WE GET RID OF HIM! HE'LL BE AT THOSE DISHES FOREVER!
ROULETTE--?
THOSE JERKS STILL THINK WE HAVE TO SNEAK AROUND. THEY DON'T REALIZE THE WHITE QUEEN KNOWS EVERYTHING.
'SIDES, THIS'LL BE FUN TO WATCH!
YOU GOT IT, T-BIRD!
A BAD LUCK PSI-DISK'LL PLACE THE ODDS DEFINITELY IN OUR FAVOR!
YEII!
CRASH!
HOW'D THAT HAPPEN... SLIPPERY SPOT?
I KNOW I STACKED THEM PROPERLY... BETTER GET THE BROOM. THEY'LL TAKE IT FROM MY SALARY--!
BINGO!
NOW OUT THE BACK DOOR, OVER THE FENCE, AND AWAY!
I'VE BEEN THINKING, EMPATH! YOU MIGHT LIKE THAT STUCK UP NEW MUTANT, AMARA...
...BUT THE ONLY WAY SHE'D EVER LIKE YOU IS IF YOU MADE HER... LIKE YOU TRIED TO DO TO ME!
AM I, THEN, SO UNLIKABLE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU'RE SURE OF THAT, TAROT, MY DEAR...?
ABSOLUTELY SURE!

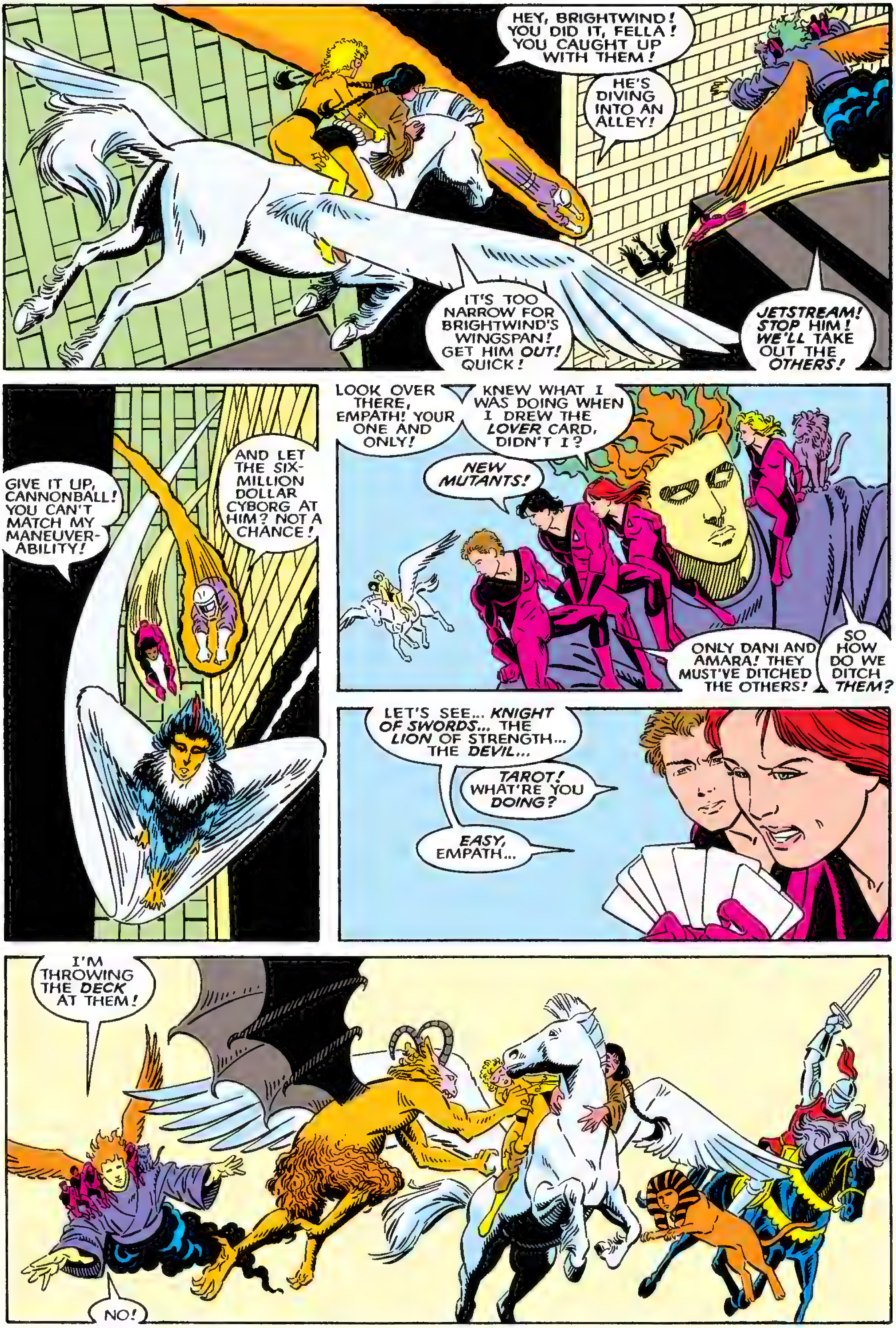

AND WHAT WILL YOU *GIVE* ME WHEN I PROVE THAT YOU ARE *WRONG?*
I... I WILL GIVE YOU...
EMPATH-- I SAID *CUT IT OUT!*
TAROT, QUIT BAITING HIM! YOU GOT YOUR *CARDS*-- *USE* 'EM!
WE NEED *TRANSPORTATION!* SOMETHING WITH *WINGS!*
AMONG MANY MORE ***GRUESOME*** POSSIBILITIES, THE CARDS THROW UP--
--THE LOVER!
VI
LOVER
XIX
NO DOUBT, EMPATH, IN YOUR HONOR!
YIIKES!
A MOST *AUSPICIOUS*--
GIANT-WINGBEING COMES FROM NOWHERE!
NOW FLY AWAY?
YOU CAN CONTROL THIS GUY, RIGHT, TAROT?
YEAH, SURE! NO PROBLEM!
THEN LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

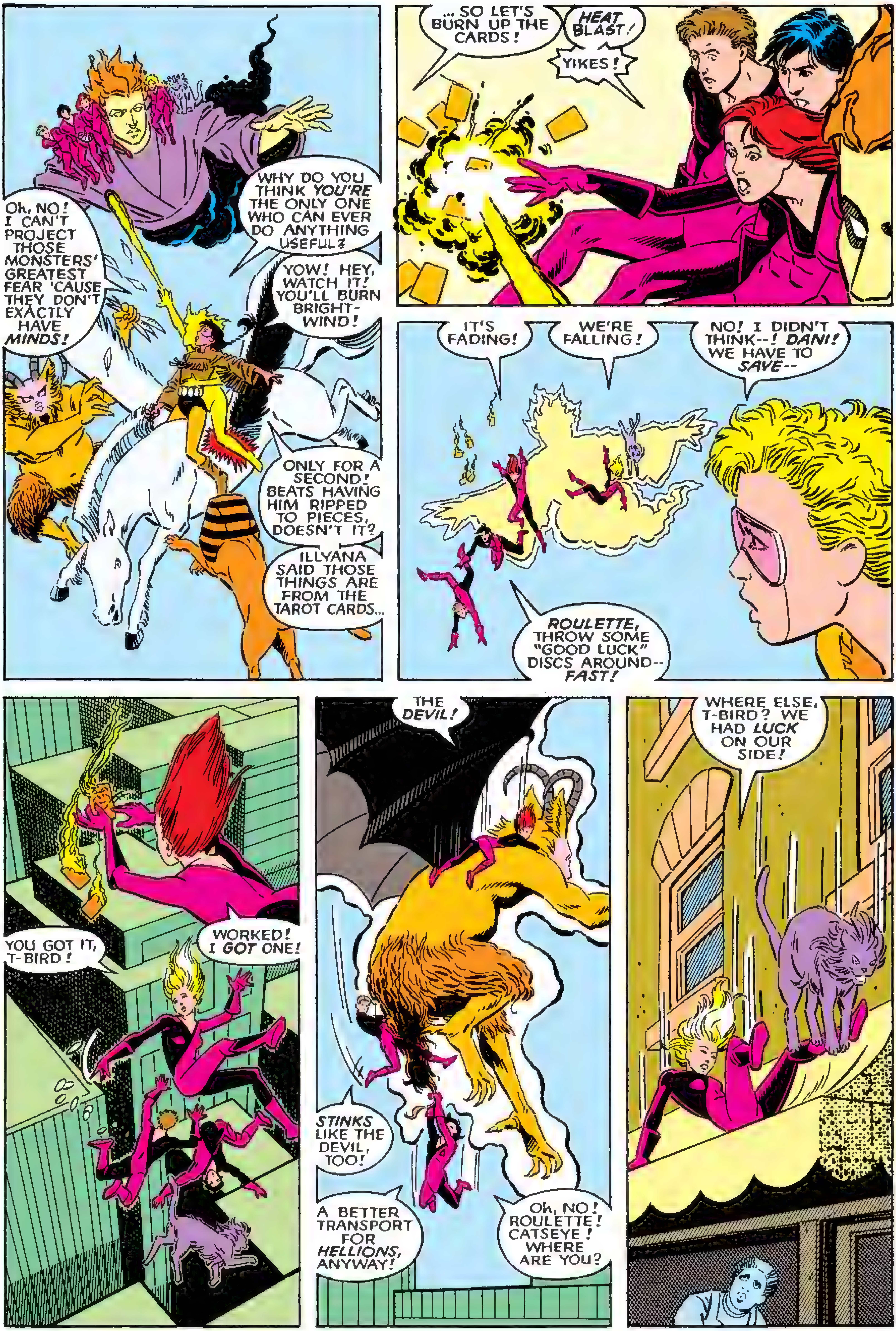

MEANWHILE THE NEW MUTANTS GATHER IN THE PASTURE...
Oh, HONESTLY, DANI, YOU'RE NOT BRINGING YOUR HORSE!
LOOK, 'MARA, THE BIRD BOY CAN FLY!
SO CAN SAM!
SAM CAN ONLY CARRY ONE! BRIGHTWIND CAN CARRY THE REST OF US... IF HE HAS TO! WHICH HE DOES!
COME ON, ILLYANA! TELEPORT US AWAY!
MANHATTAN, HERE WE...
...COME!
NO! ILLYANA! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHERE ARE WE?
THE WORLD TRADE CENTER! WHY, AMARA, HEIGHTS BOTHER YOU?
WE NEEDED A PLACE TO LOOK AROUND FROM! I FIGURED, LET'S START AT THE TOP!
LOOK! FAR OUT OVER THE RIVER!
CAN THAT BE HIM?

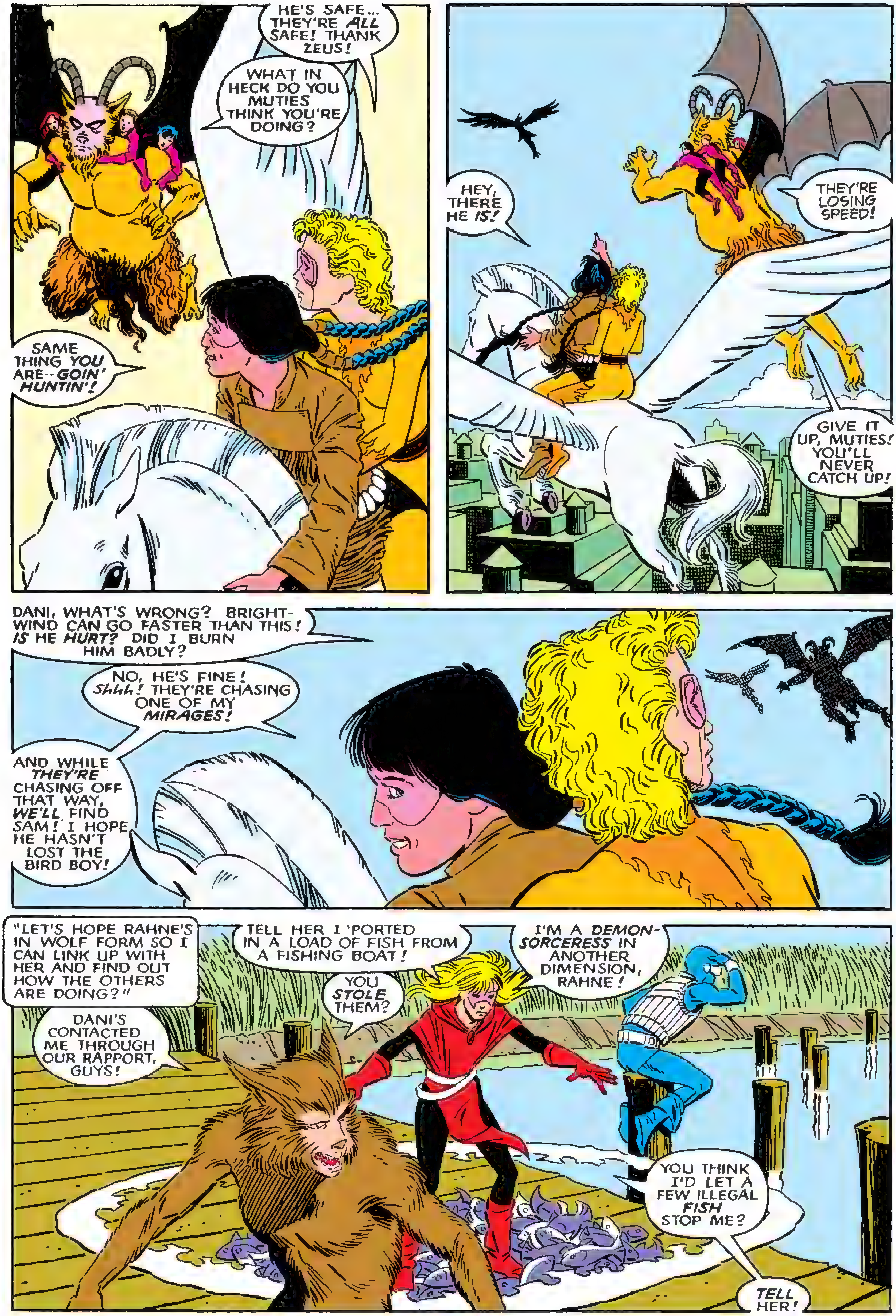

GOOD EYES, RAHNE! IT MIGHT BE! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
LOOK HOW HE'S WHEELING AROUND! WHAT'S HE DOING?!
SPLOOSH!
Oh, GROSS! LOOK WHAT HE HAS IN HIS MOUTH!
A FISH!
HE'LL NEVER SWALLOW IT WHOLE! HE'LL CHOKE!
WRONG AGAIN! SWALLOWED AND DODGED US AT THE SAME TIME!
HOW DID THEY EVER CATCH HIM TO BEGIN WITH?
THE RADIO SAID HE WAS EXHAUSTED AND NEARLY FROZEN. HE'S BEAUTIFUL-- AND HE'S HORRIBLE!
DANI... CAN HE REALLY BE A MUTANT LIKE US?
NOT MUCH LIKE US!
HE'S AT LEAST PART ANIMAL! I CAN ESTABLISH A TENUOUS PSYCHIC RAPPORT WITH HIM...
...BUT I CAN'T COMMUNICATE... AND ALL I GET FROM HIM IS HUNGER... AND FEAR!

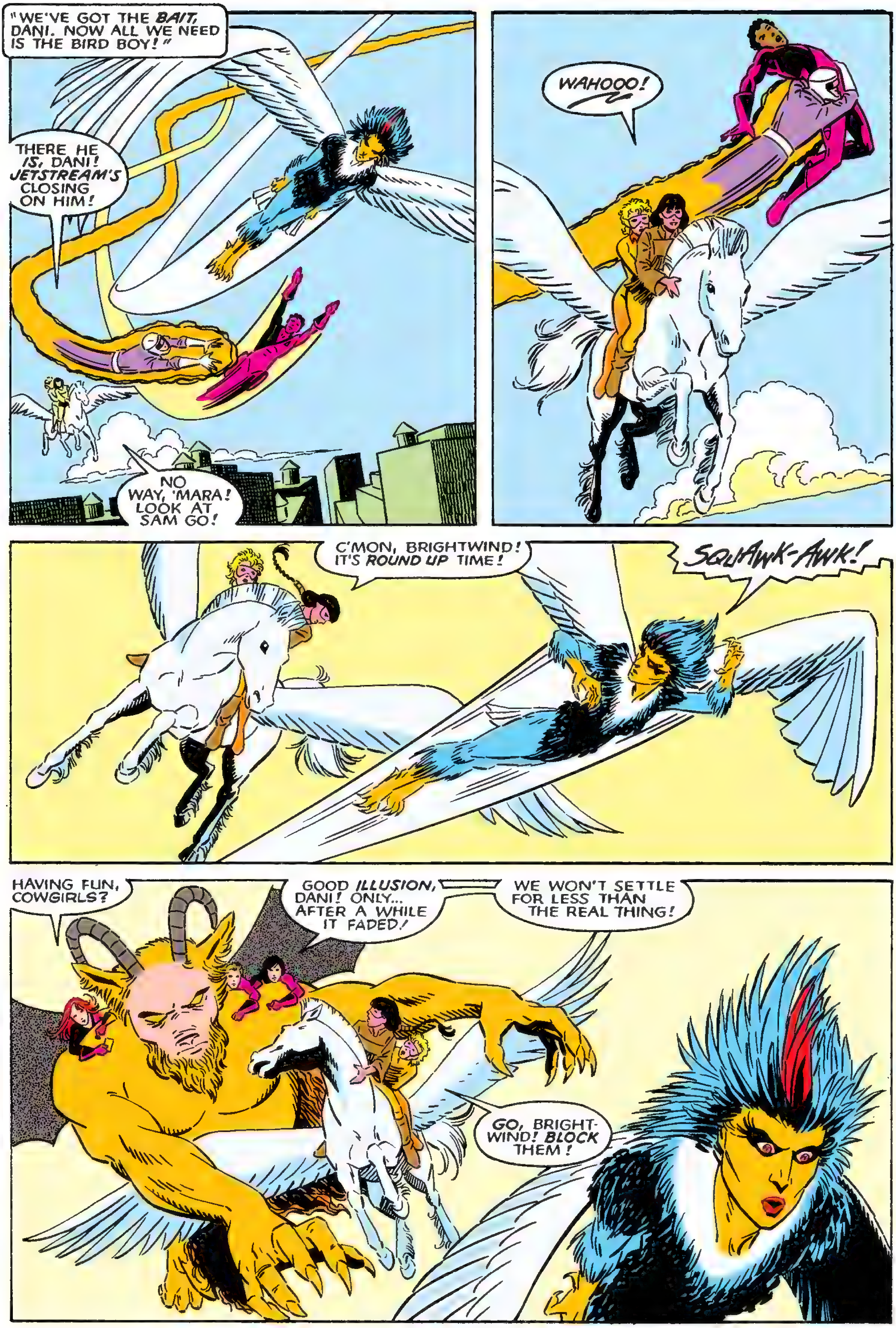

LET'S SEE WHAT *HE* WANTS MOST!
FISH AND WORMS! *BIRD FOOD!?!*
UGH! BUT... HOW CAN HE BE *HUNGRY?* HE JUST *ATE!*
BIRDS HAVE AN INCREDIBLY FAST METABOLISM, DOUG. AND HE SEEMS TO BE A BIG *BIRD*... SORT OF!
HIS THOUGHTS AREN'T HUMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE... BUT THEY'RE NOT LIKE ANY BIRD'S I'VE ENCOUNTERED!
LOOK AT HIM-- REACHING FOR THE FOOD IMAGE... TRYING TO *EAT* IT! HE ACTS *STARVED!* POOR THING, I WONDER...
YO, MUTIES! YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY 'BOUT A BIRD IN THE *HAND?*
HELLIONS!
MAKE YOUR CREATURE *REACH* FOR HIM, TAROT! *GRAB* HIM!
MANUEL! *EMPATH!*
WHAT'S *THAT* THEY'RE *RIDING?*
ONE OF *TAROT'S* MONSTERS!
SQUAWK-EEE!
HELP!

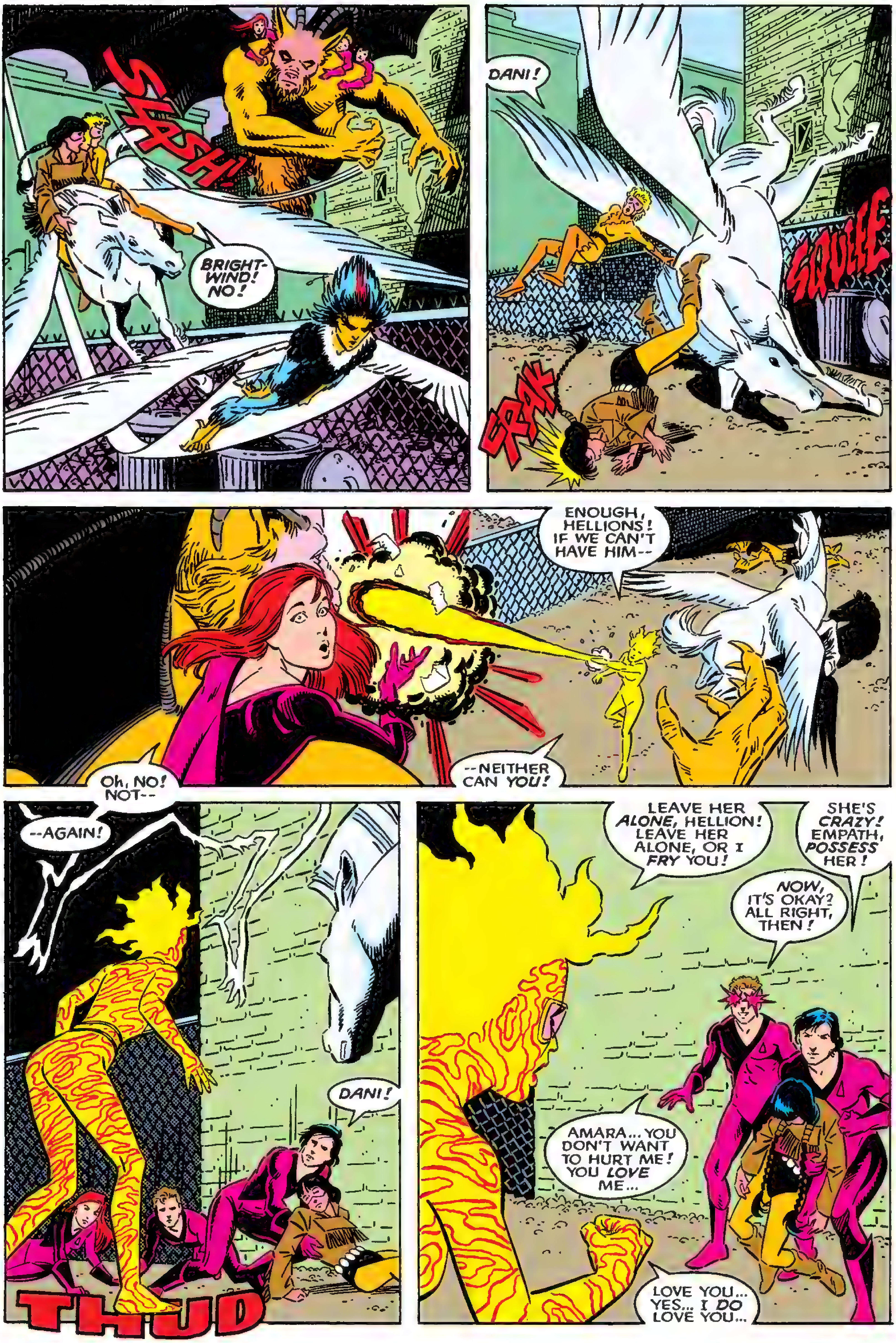

HANG ON, RAHNE! WE'LL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE!
GREAT IDEA, DANI-- ***FABULOUS*** MODE OF TRANSPORTATION! ME AND RAHNE COULD'VE BEEN KILLED!
I'M AFRAID HE'S RIGHT, DANI. MORE THAN A COUPLE OF PEOPLE SIMPLY DON'T FIT!
HA-HA! SO LONG, SUCKERS!
POOR ***BIRD BOY!*** FRIGHTENED... CHASED LIKE I ONCE WAS BY MEN WHO THOUGHT ME A WERE-DEMON!
THE HELLIONS ***WON*** THE LAST TIME WE SQUARED OFF! THIS TIME ***WE*** EVEN THE SCORE!
MORE IMPORTANT, SAM, THE BIRD BOY'S ***LIFE*** MAY BE AT STAKE!
HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
SAM, PUT 'MARA UP BEHIND ME! WE'LL FLY AFTER THE HELLIONS... FIGHT THEM OR AT LEAST DISTRACT THEM!
FAIR ENOUGH! UP YOU GO, 'MARA! WHAT'LL AH DO? ROUND UP THE ***BIRD BOY?***
YEAH, AND I THOUGHT--
NO DEBATE!? WE JUST DO WHAT YOU SAY, WHENEVER YOU SAY... JUST LIKE THAT?
YOU HAVE A ***BETTER*** IDEA?
WHAT ABOUT ***US?***
FIGURE A WAY TO LURE THE BIRD BOY!
YEAH! AH'LL DRIVE 'IM BACK HERE, AN' WHEN HE GOES FOR THE LURE, YOU CAN 'PORT HIM BACK TA THE SCHOOL!
LURE HIM? SWELL, WHERE'LL WE FIND HALF A TON OF ***FISH?***

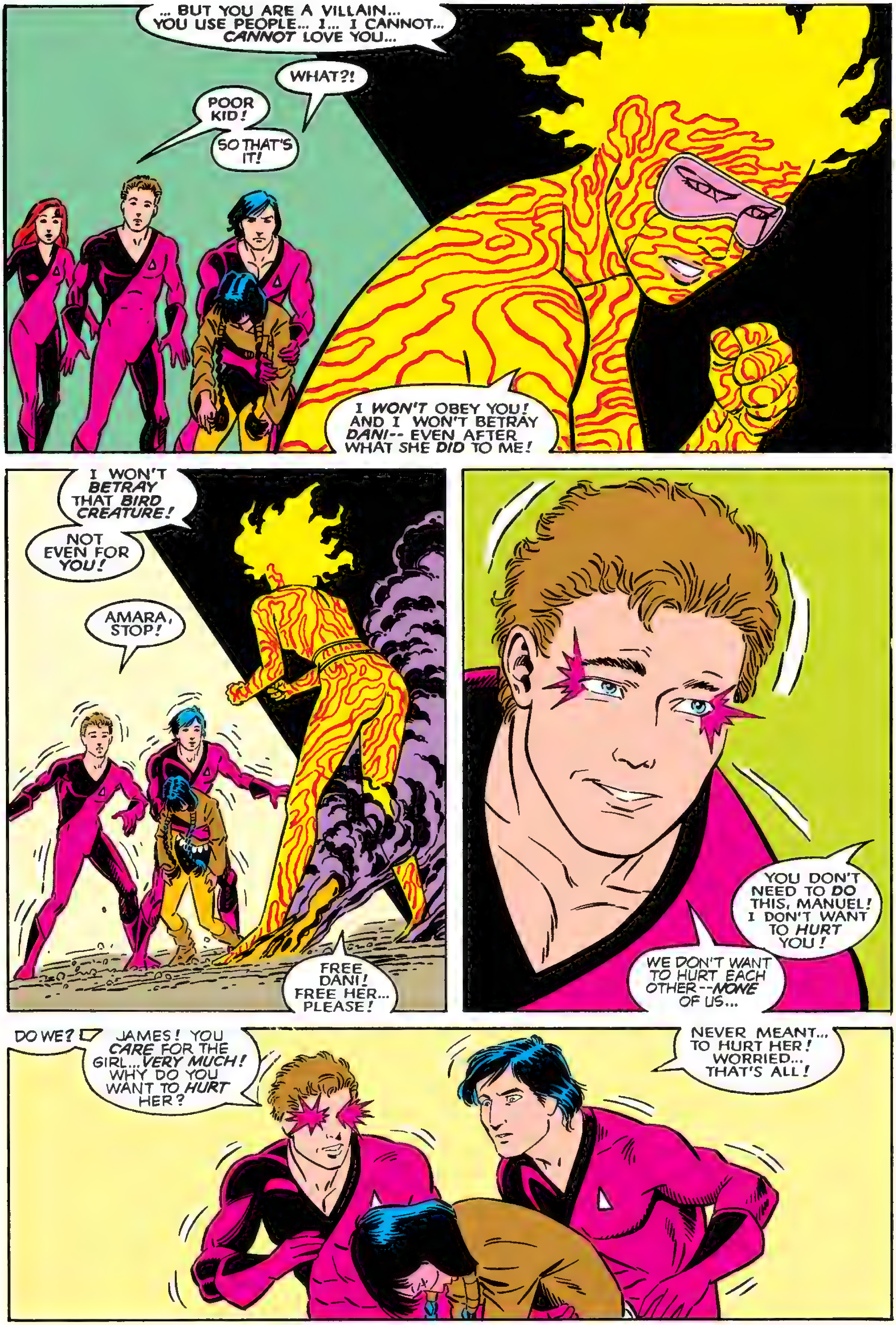

HEY, BRIGHTWIND! YOU DID IT, FELLA! YOU CAUGHT UP WITH THEM!
HE'S DIVING INTO AN ALLEY!
IT'S TOO NARROW FOR BRIGHTWIND'S WINGSPAN! GET HIM *OUT!* QUICK!
JETSTREAM! STOP HIM! *WE'LL* TAKE OUT THE *OTHERS!*
GIVE IT UP, CANNONBALL! YOU CAN'T MATCH MY MANEUVERABILITY!
AND LET THE SIX-MILLION DOLLAR CYBORG AT HIM? NOT A CHANCE!
LOOK OVER THERE, EMPATH! YOUR ONE AND ONLY!
KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING WHEN I DREW THE *LOVER* CARD, DIDN'T I?
NEW MUTANTS!
ONLY DANI AND AMARA! THEY MUST'VE DITCHED THE OTHERS!
SO HOW DO WE DITCH *THEM?*
LET'S SEE... *KNIGHT OF SWORDS...* THE *LION* OF STRENGTH... THE *DEVIL...*
TAROT! WHAT'RE YOU *DOING?*
EASY, EMPATH...
I'M THROWING THE *DECK* AT THEM!
NO!

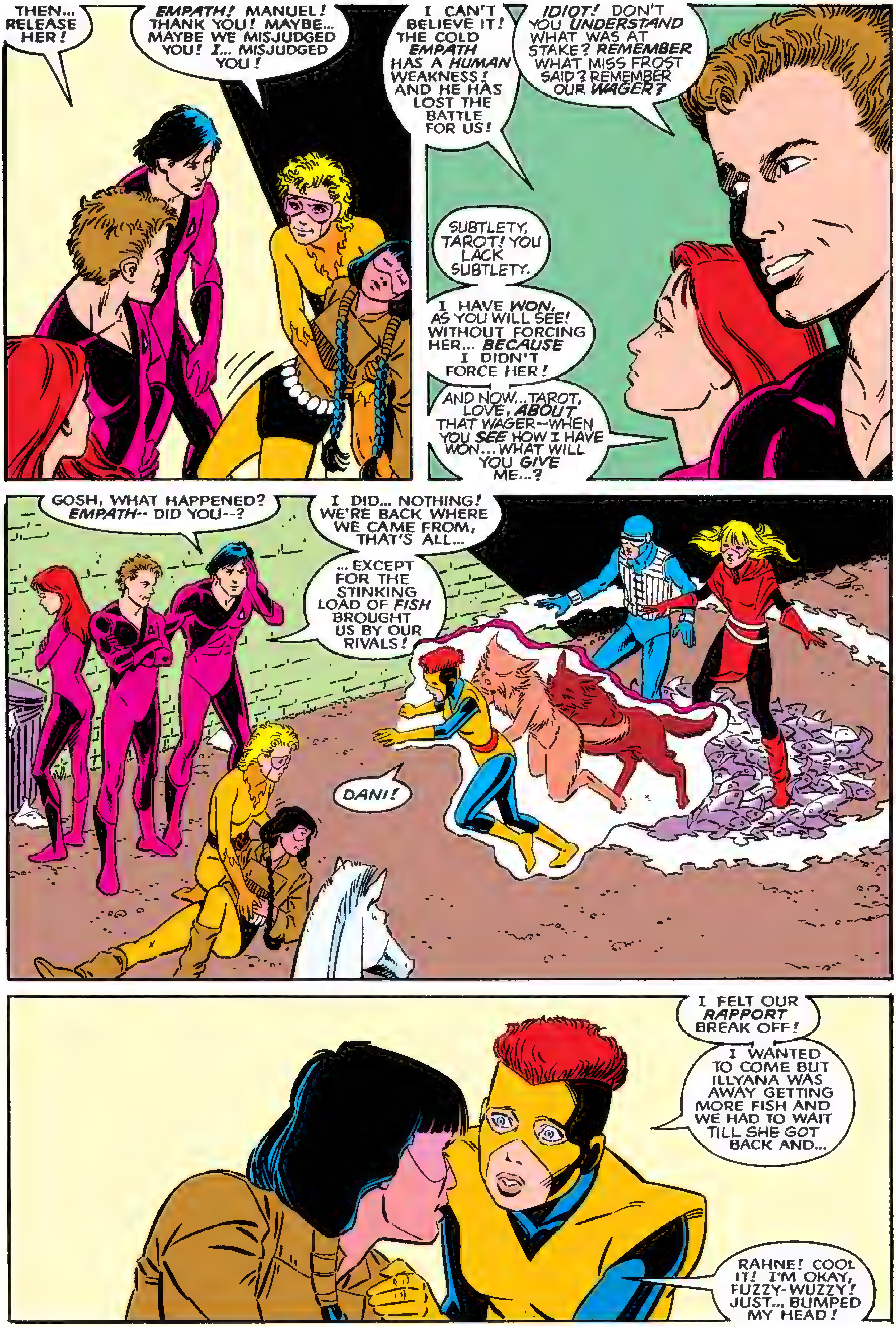

Oh, NO! I CAN'T PROJECT THOSE MONSTERS' GREATEST FEAR 'CAUSE THEY DON'T EXACTLY HAVE MINDS!
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EVER DO ANYTHING USEFUL?
YOW! HEY, WATCH IT! YOU'LL BURN BRIGHTWIND!
ONLY FOR A SECOND! BEATS HAVING HIM RIPPED TO PIECES, DOESN'T IT?
ILLYANA SAID THOSE THINGS ARE FROM THE TAROT CARDS...
...SO LET'S BURN UP THE CARDS!
HEAT BLAST!
YIKES!
IT'S FADING!
WE'RE FALLING!
NO! I DIDN'T THINK--! DANI! WE HAVE TO SAVE--
ROULETTE, THROW SOME "GOOD LUCK" DISCS AROUND-- FAST!
WORKED! I GOT ONE!
YOU GOT IT, T-BIRD!
THE DEVIL!
STINKS LIKE THE DEVIL, TOO!
A BETTER TRANSPORT FOR HELLIONS, ANYWAY!
Oh, NO! ROULETTE! CATSEYE! WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE ELSE, T-BIRD? WE HAD LUCK ON OUR SIDE!

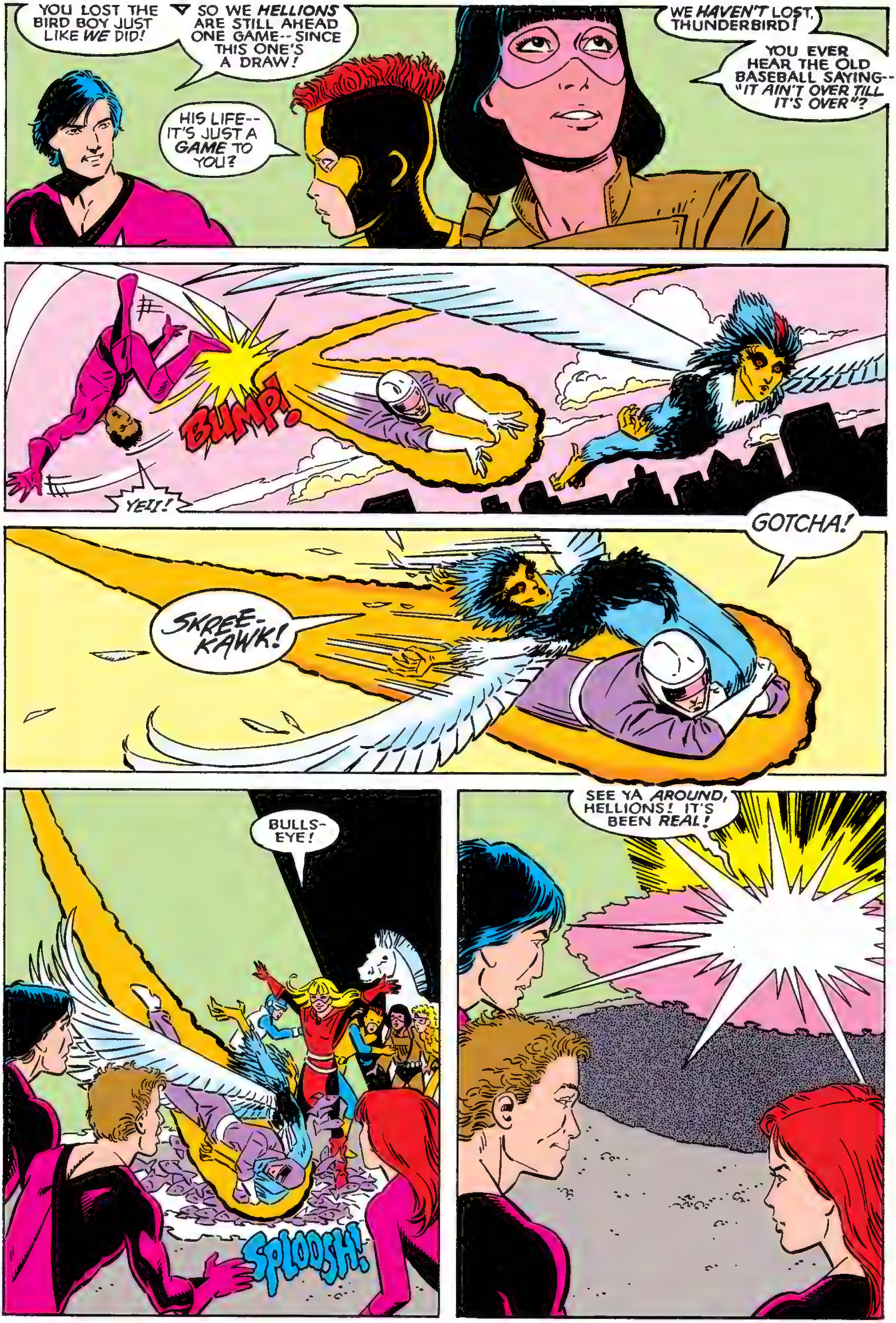

HE'S SAFE... THEY'RE *ALL* SAFE! THANK ZEUS!
WHAT IN HECK DO YOU MUTIES THINK YOU'RE DOING?
SAME THING *YOU* ARE--*GOIN' HUNTIN'!*
HEY, THERE HE *IS!*
THEY'RE LOSING SPEED!
GIVE IT UP, MUTIES! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH UP!
DANI, WHAT'S WRONG? BRIGHTWIND CAN GO FASTER THAN THIS! *IS* HE *HURT?* DID I BURN HIM BADLY?
NO, HE'S FINE! *SHHH!* THEY'RE CHASING ONE OF MY *MIRAGES!*
AND WHILE *THEY'RE* CHASING OFF THAT WAY, *WE'LL* FIND SAM! I HOPE HE HASN'T LOST THE BIRD BOY!
"LET'S HOPE RAHNE'S IN WOLF FORM SO I CAN LINK UP WITH HER AND FIND OUT HOW THE OTHERS ARE DOING?"
DANI'S CONTACTED ME THROUGH OUR RAPPORT, GUYS!
TELL HER I 'PORTED IN A LOAD OF FISH FROM A FISHING BOAT!
YOU *STOLE* THEM?
I'M A *DEMON-SORCERESS* IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, RAHNE!
YOU THINK I'D LET A FEW ILLEGAL *FISH* STOP ME?
TELL HER!

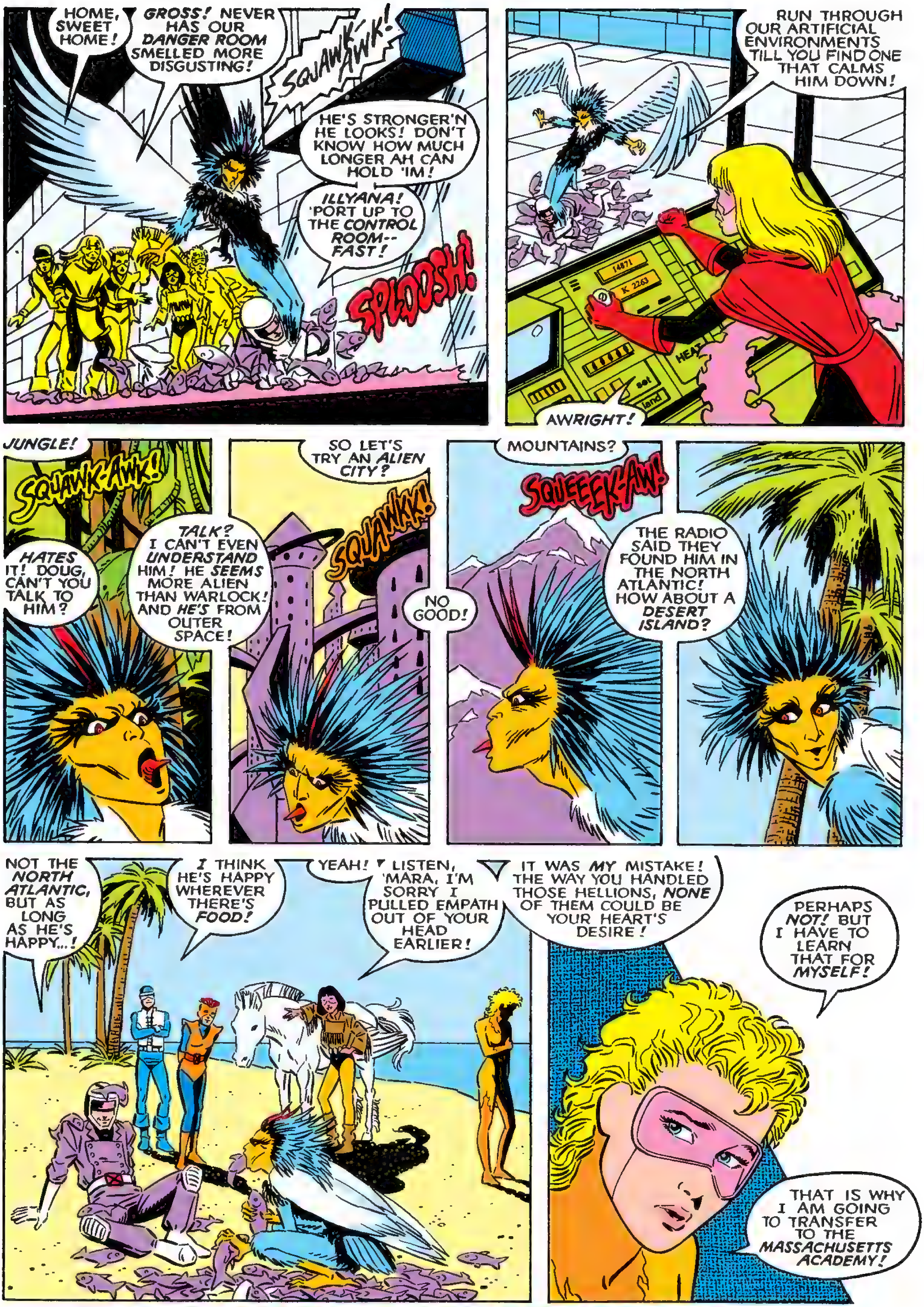

"WE'VE GOT THE *BAIT*, DANI. NOW ALL WE NEED IS THE BIRD BOY!"
THERE HE *IS*, DANI! *JETSTREAM'S* CLOSING ON HIM!
NO WAY, 'MARA! LOOK AT SAM GO!
WAHOOO!
C'MON, BRIGHTWIND! IT'S *ROUND UP* TIME!
SQUAWK-AWK!
HAVING FUN, COWGIRLS?
GOOD *ILLUSION*, DANI! ONLY... AFTER A WHILE IT FADED!
WE WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE REAL THING!
GO, BRIGHTWIND! *BLOCK* THEM!


SHASH!
BRIGHT-WIND! NO!
DANI!
SQUEEE
SPAK
ENOUGH, HELLIONS! IF WE CAN'T HAVE HIM--
--NEITHER CAN *YOU!*
Oh, NO! NOT--
--AGAIN!
DANI!
THUD
LEAVE HER *ALONE,* HELLION! LEAVE HER ALONE, OR I *FRY* YOU!
SHE'S *CRAZY!* EMPATH, *POSSESS* HER!
NOW, IT'S OKAY? ALL RIGHT, THEN!
AMARA... YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME! YOU *LOVE* ME...
LOVE YOU... YES... I *DO* LOVE YOU...


... BUT YOU ARE A VILLAIN... YOU USE PEOPLE... I... I CANNOT... *CANNOT* LOVE YOU...
WHAT?!
POOR KID!
SO THAT'S IT!
I *WON'T* OBEY YOU! AND I WON'T BETRAY *DANI*-- EVEN AFTER WHAT SHE *DID* TO ME!
I WON'T *BETRAY* THAT *BIRD CREATURE!*
NOT EVEN FOR *YOU!*
AMARA, STOP!
FREE DANI! FREE HER... PLEASE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO *DO* THIS, MANUEL! I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU!
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT EACH OTHER--*NONE* OF US...
DO WE?
JAMES! YOU *CARE* FOR THE GIRL...*VERY MUCH!* WHY DO YOU WANT TO *HURT* HER?
NEVER MEANT... TO HURT HER! WORRIED... THAT'S ALL!


THEN... RELEASE HER!
EMPATH! MANUEL! THANK YOU! MAYBE... MAYBE WE MISJUDGED YOU! *I*... MISJUDGED YOU!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE COLD *EMPATH* HAS A *HUMAN* WEAKNESS! AND HE HAS LOST THE BATTLE FOR US!
IDIOT! DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND* WHAT WAS AT STAKE? *REMEMBER* WHAT MISS FROST SAID? REMEMBER OUR *WAGER?*
SUBTLETY, TAROT! YOU LACK SUBTLETY.
I HAVE *WON*, AS YOU WILL SEE! WITHOUT FORCING HER... *BECAUSE* I DIDN'T FORCE HER!
AND NOW...TAROT, LOVE, *ABOUT* THAT WAGER--WHEN YOU *SEE* HOW I HAVE WON...WHAT WILL YOU *GIVE* ME...?
GOSH, WHAT HAPPENED? *EMPATH*-- DID YOU--?
I DID... NOTHING! WE'RE BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM, THAT'S ALL...
...EXCEPT FOR THE STINKING LOAD OF *FISH* BROUGHT US BY OUR RIVALS!
DANI!
I FELT OUR *RAPPORT* BREAK OFF!
I WANTED TO COME BUT ILLYANA WAS AWAY GETTING MORE FISH AND WE HAD TO WAIT TILL SHE GOT BACK AND...
RAHNE! COOL IT! I'M OKAY, FUZZY-WUZZY! JUST... BUMPED MY HEAD!


YOU LOST THE BIRD BOY JUST LIKE WE DID!
SO WE HELLIONS ARE STILL AHEAD ONE GAME-- SINCE THIS ONE'S A DRAW!
HIS LIFE-- IT'S JUST A GAME TO YOU?
WE HAVEN'T LOST, THUNDERBIRD!
YOU EVER HEAR THE OLD BASEBALL SAYING-- "IT AIN'T OVER TILL IT'S OVER"?
BUMP!
YEII!
GOTCHA!
SKREE-KAWK!
BULLS-EYE!
SPLOOSH!
SEE YA AROUND, HELLIONS! IT'S BEEN REAL!


HOME, SWEET HOME!
GROSS! NEVER HAS OUR DANGER ROOM SMELLED MORE DISGUSTING!
SQUAWK AWK!
HE'S STRONGER'N HE LOOKS! DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER AH CAN HOLD 'IM!
ILLYANA! 'PORT UP TO THE CONTROL ROOM-- FAST!
SPLOOSH!
RUN THROUGH OUR ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENTS TILL YOU FIND ONE THAT CALMS HIM DOWN!
14871
K 2263
HEAT
set
land
AWRIGHT!
JUNGLE!
SQUAWK-AWK!
HATES IT! DOUG, CAN'T YOU TALK TO HIM?
TALK? I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HIM! HE SEEMS MORE ALIEN THAN WARLOCK! AND HE'S FROM OUTER SPACE!
SO LET'S TRY AN ALIEN CITY?
SQUAWK!
NO GOOD!
MOUNTAINS?
SQUEEEK-AW!
THE RADIO SAID THEY FOUND HIM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC! HOW ABOUT A DESERT ISLAND?
NOT THE NORTH ATLANTIC, BUT AS LONG AS HE'S HAPPY...!
I THINK HE'S HAPPY WHEREVER THERE'S FOOD!
YEAH!
LISTEN, 'MARA, I'M SORRY I PULLED EMPATH OUT OF YOUR HEAD EARLIER!
IT WAS MY MISTAKE! THE WAY YOU HANDLED THOSE HELLIONS, NONE OF THEM COULD BE YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
PERHAPS NOT! BUT I HAVE TO LEARN THAT FOR MYSELF!
THAT IS WHY I AM GOING TO TRANSFER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!

NEXT: *WHO OR WHAT IS THE BIRD BOY?* **BIRDS *of a* FEATHER!** *COME FLY WITH US!*

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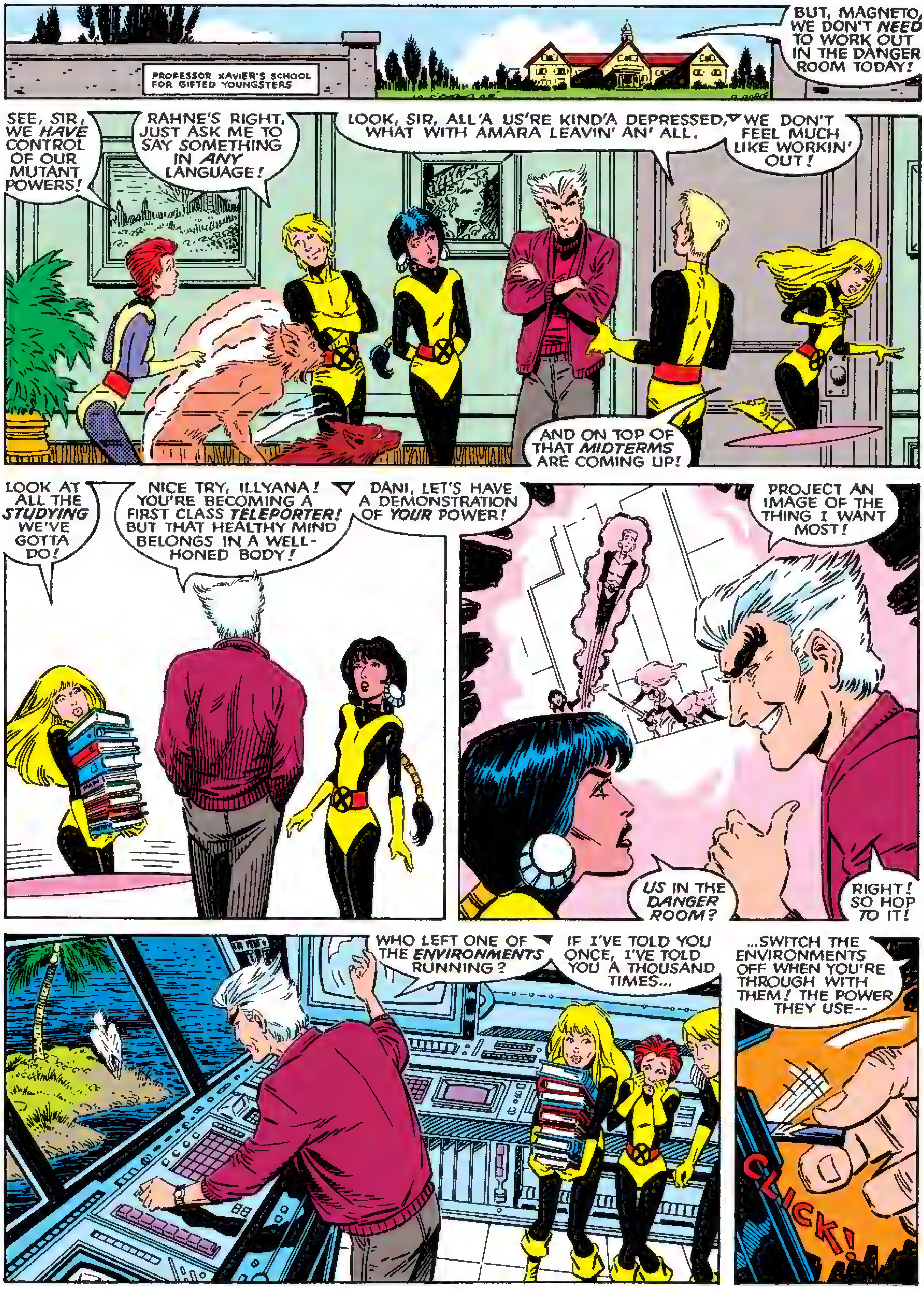
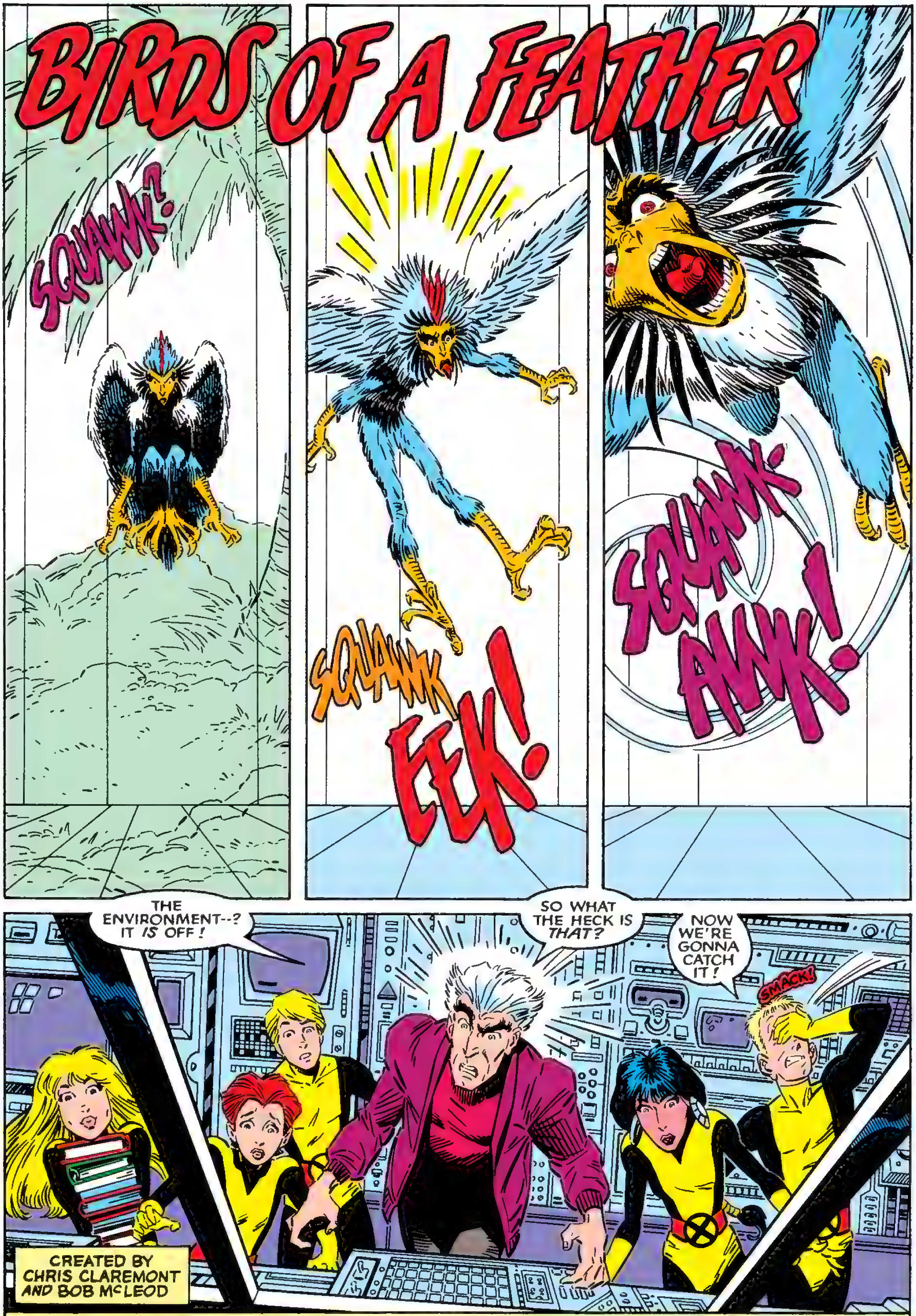

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
BUT, MAGNETO, WE DON'T *NEED* TO WORK OUT IN THE DANGER ROOM TODAY!
SEE, SIR, WE *HAVE* CONTROL OF OUR MUTANT POWERS!
RAHNE'S RIGHT. JUST ASK ME TO SAY SOMETHING IN *ANY* LANGUAGE!
LOOK, SIR, ALL'A US'RE KIND'A DEPRESSED, WHAT WITH AMARA LEAVIN' AN' ALL.
WE DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE WORKIN' OUT!
AND ON TOP OF THAT *MIDTERMS* ARE COMING UP!
LOOK AT ALL THE *STUDYING* WE'VE GOTTA DO!
NICE TRY, ILLYANA! YOU'RE BECOMING A FIRST CLASS *TELEPORTER!* BUT THAT HEALTHY MIND BELONGS IN A WELL-HONED BODY!
DANI, LET'S HAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF *YOUR* POWER!
PROJECT AN IMAGE OF THE THING I WANT MOST!
US IN THE *DANGER ROOM?*
RIGHT! SO HOP *TO* IT!
WHO LEFT ONE OF THE *ENVIRONMENTS* RUNNING?
IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE, I'VE TOLD YOU A THOUSAND TIMES...
...SWITCH THE ENVIRONMENTS OFF WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH WITH THEM! THE POWER THEY USE--
CLICK!


BIRDS OF A FEATHER
SQUAWK?
SQUAWK
EEK!
SQUAWK-AWK!
THE ENVIRONMENT--? IT *IS* OFF!
SO WHAT THE HECK IS *THAT?*
NOW WE'RE GONNA CATCH IT!
SMACK!
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
BRET BLEVINS PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN INKER
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
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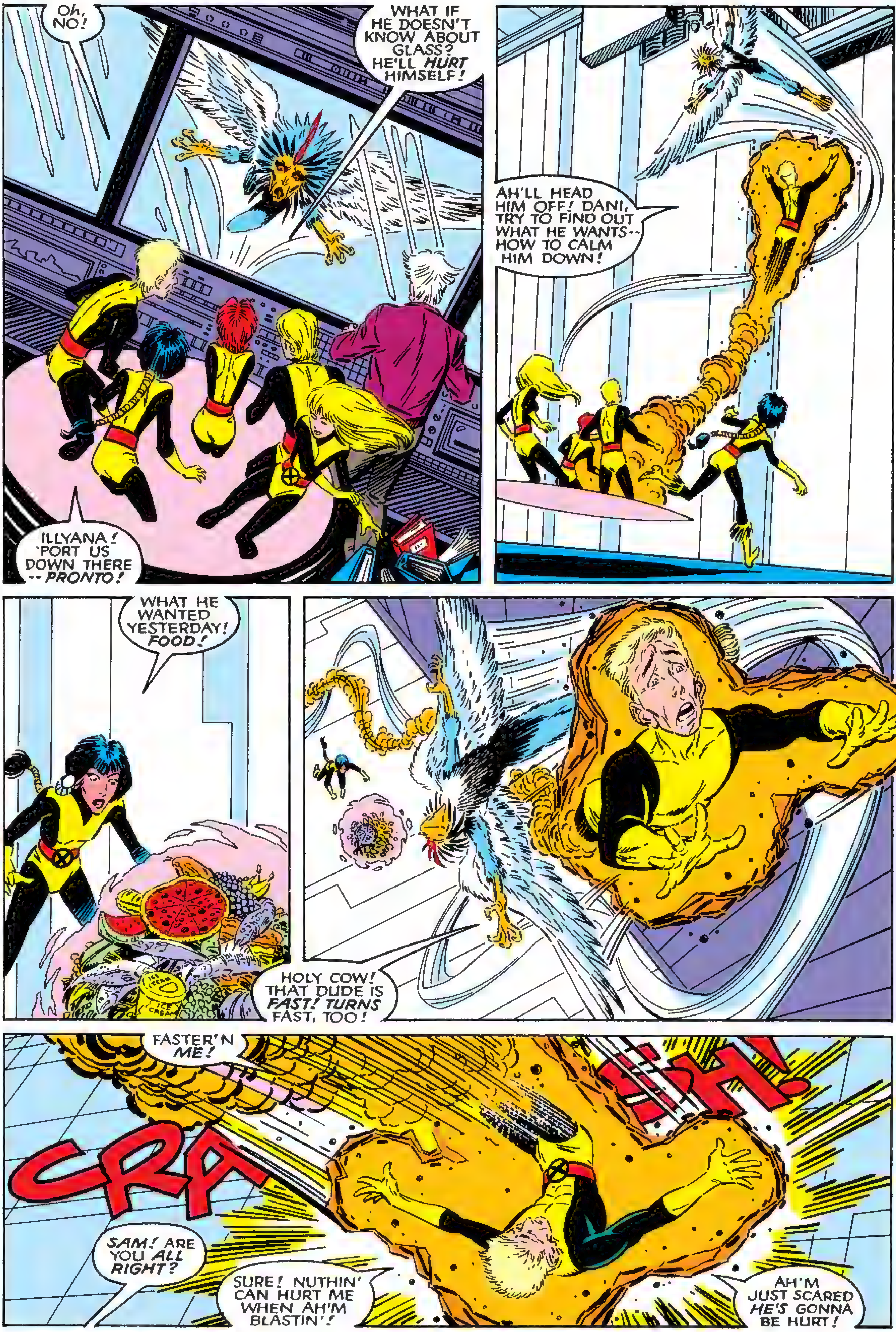
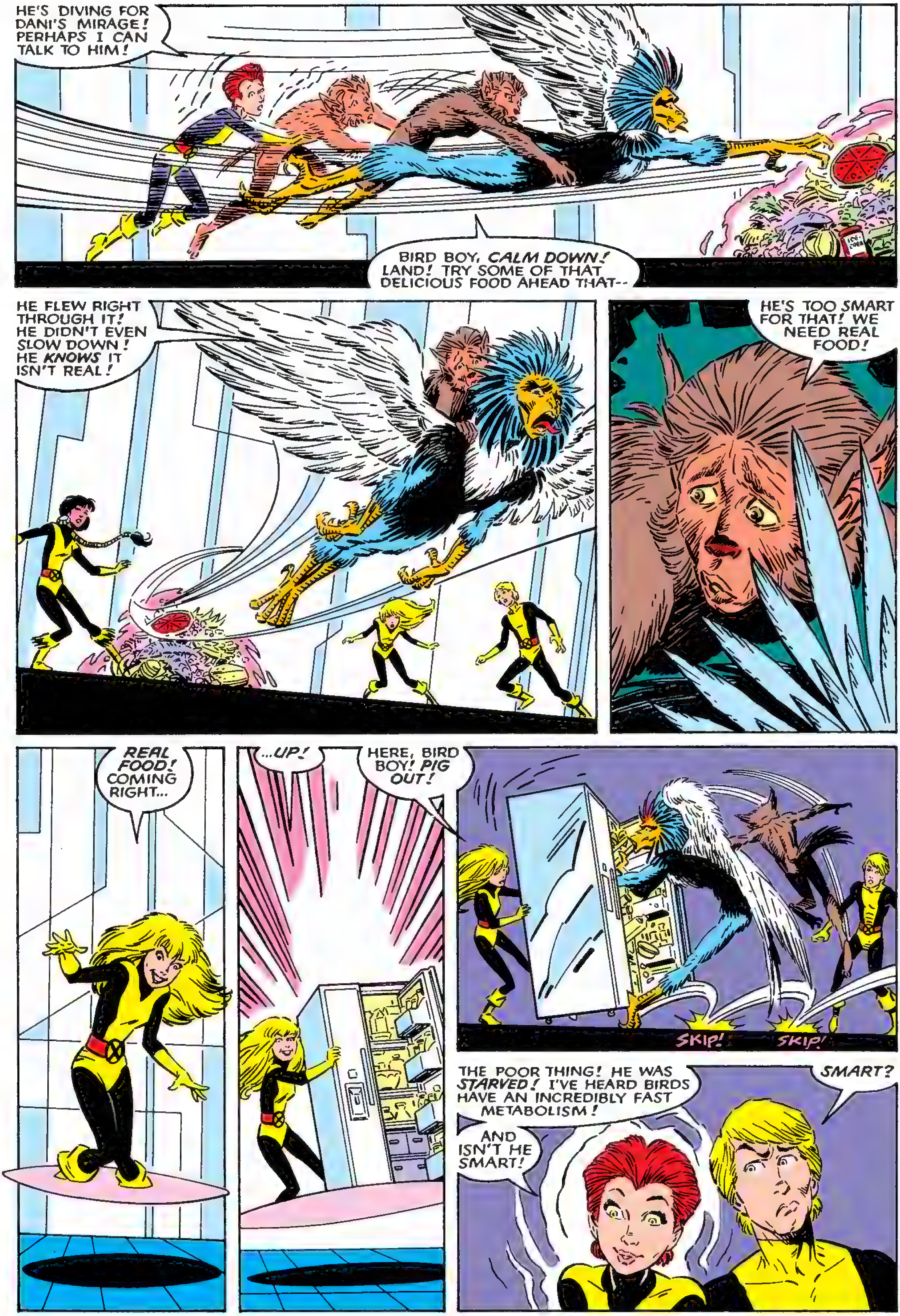
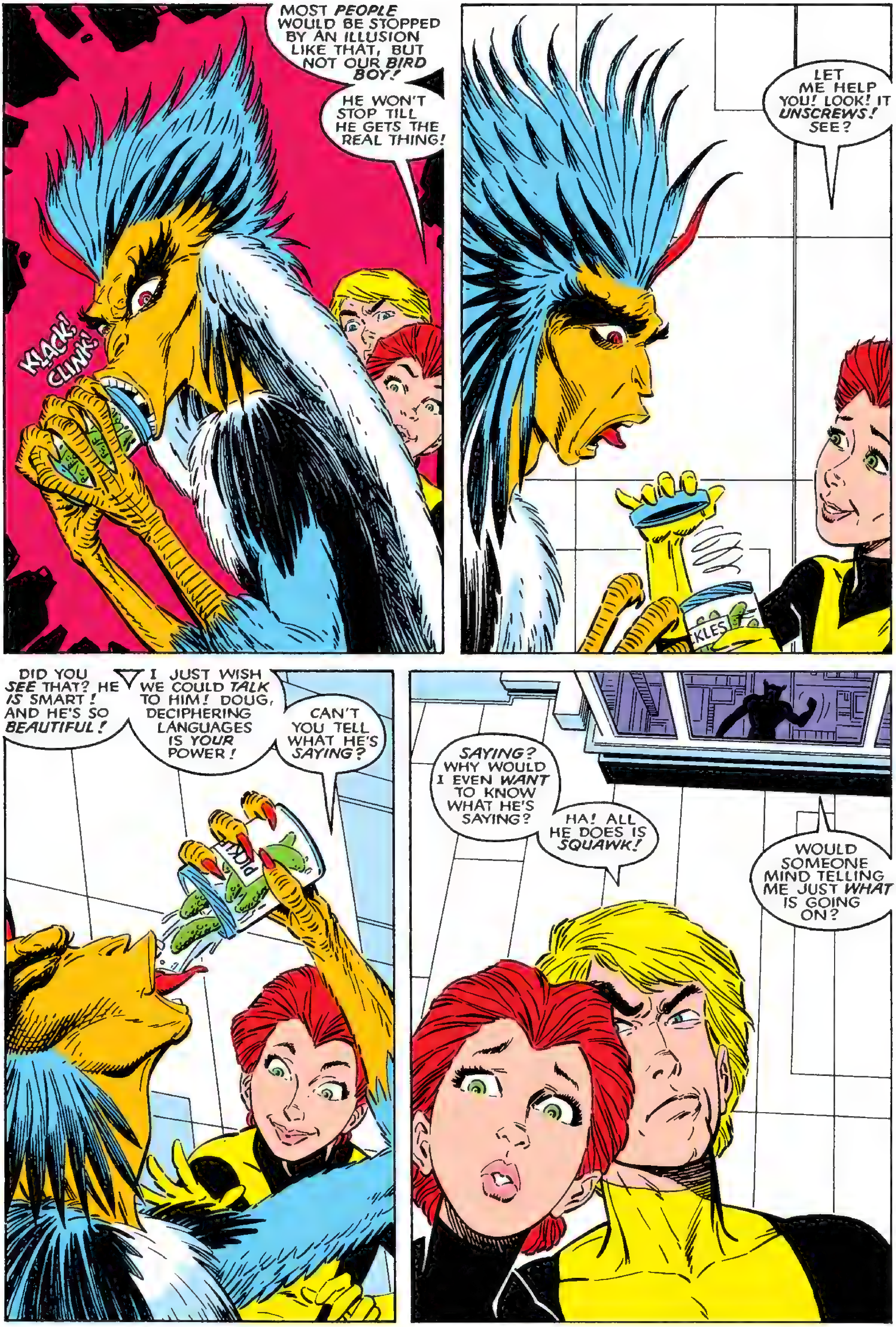
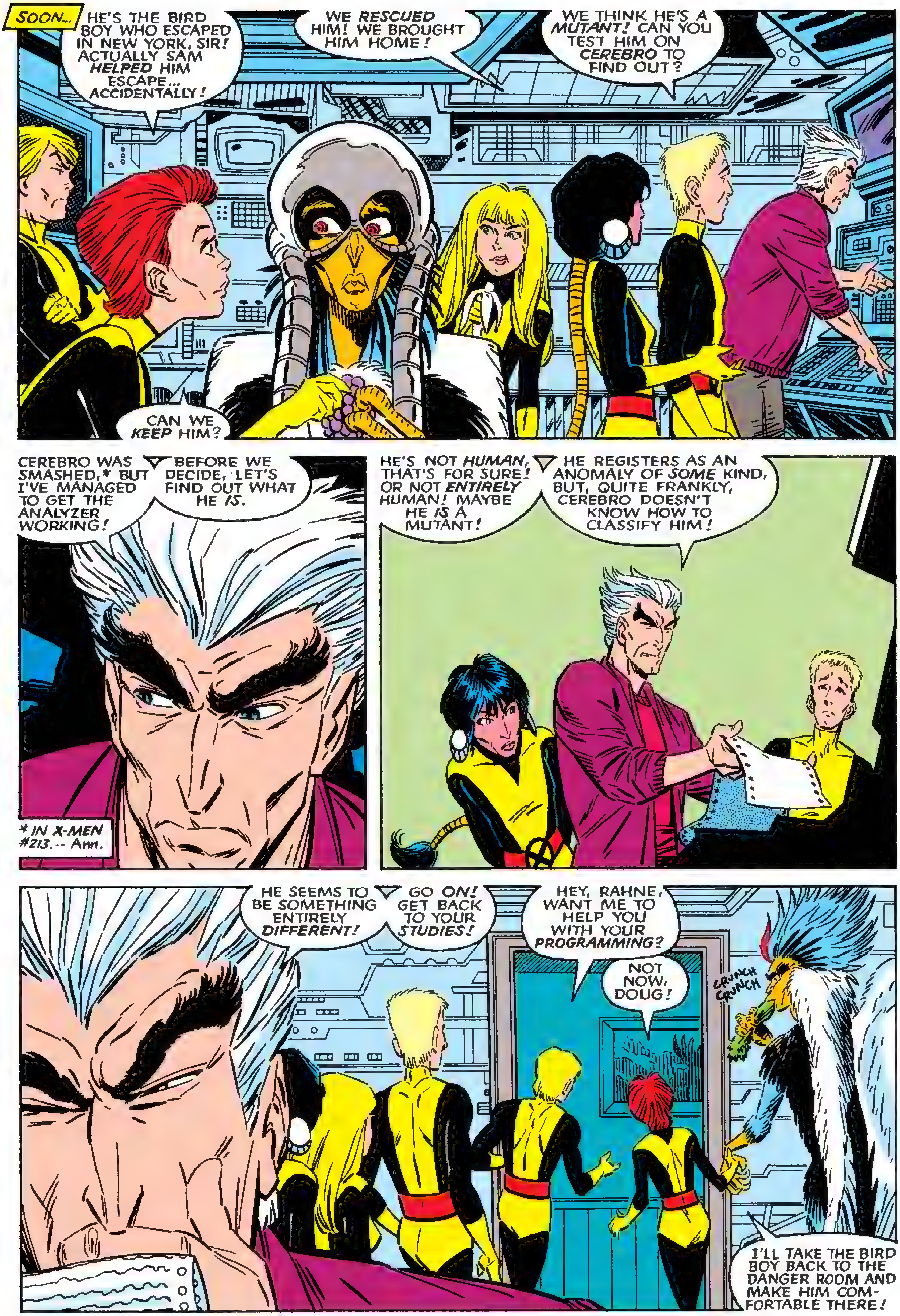
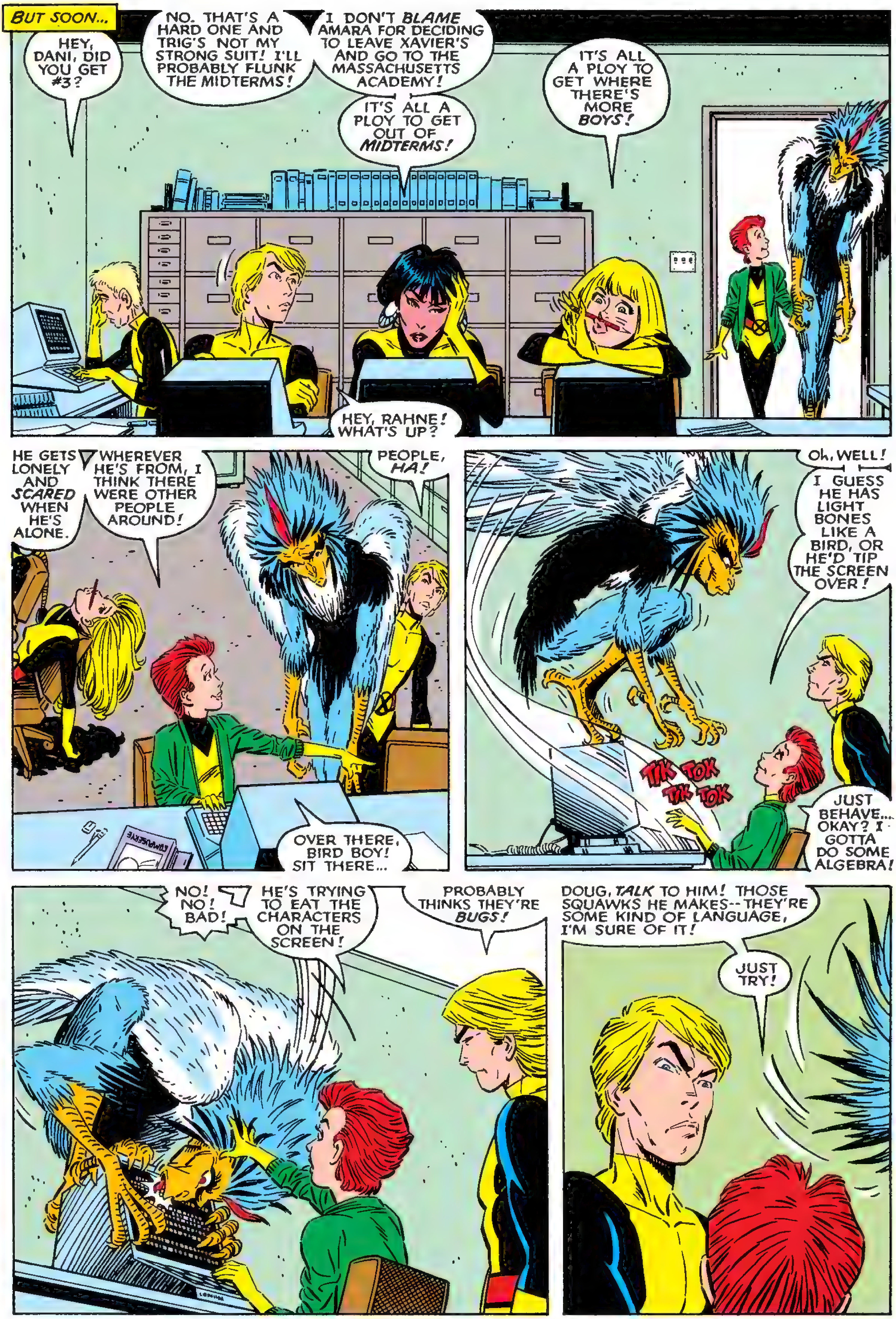
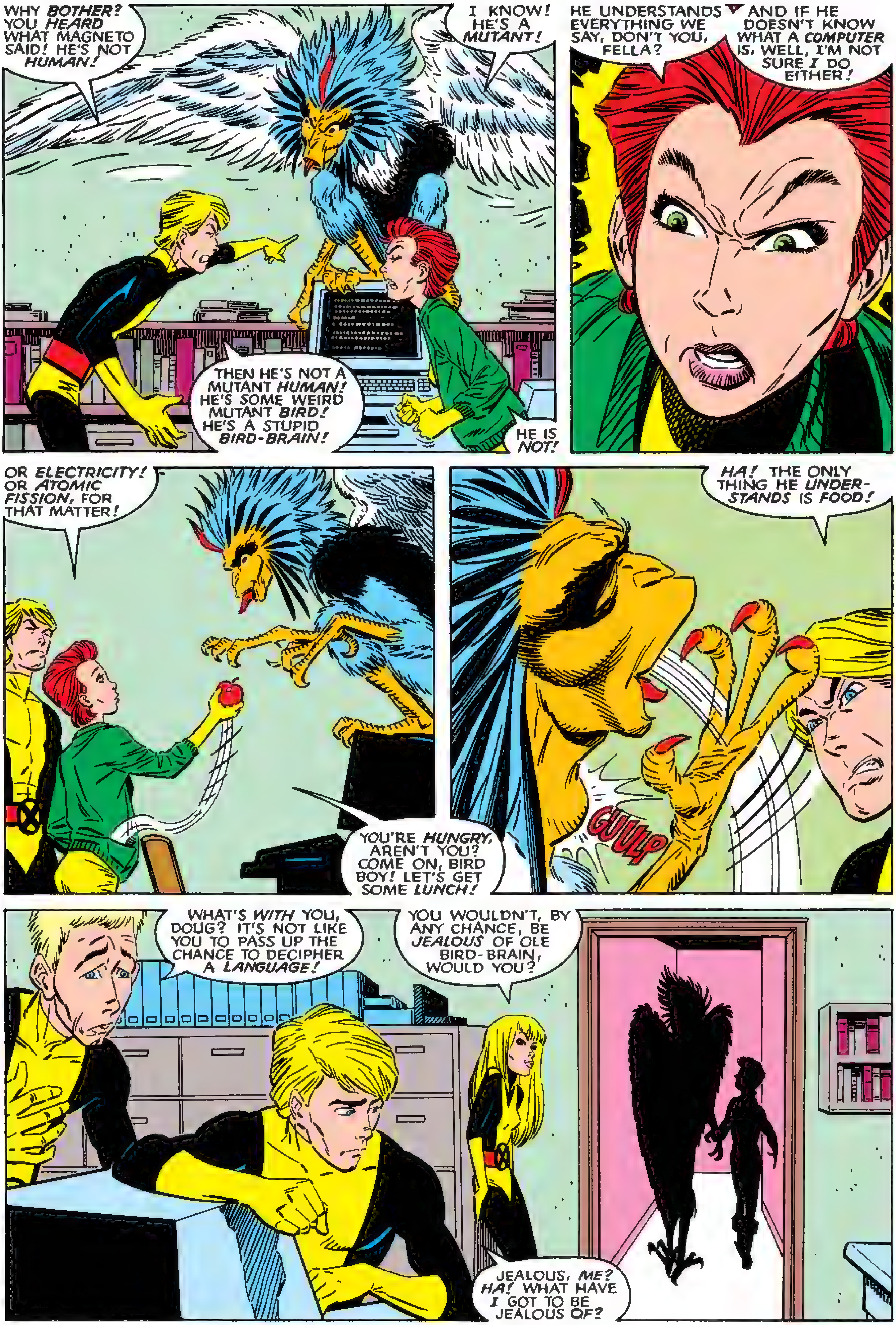

Oh, NO!
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT GLASS? HE'LL *HURT* HIMSELF!
ILLYANA! 'PORT US DOWN THERE -- *PRONTO!*
AH'LL HEAD HIM OFF! DANI, TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WANTS-- HOW TO CALM HIM DOWN!
WHAT HE WANTED YESTERDAY! *FOOD!*
ICE CREAM
ICE CREAM
HOLY COW! THAT DUDE IS *FAST! TURNS* FAST, TOO!
FASTER'N *ME!*
CRA
SH!
SAM! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
SURE! NUTHIN' CAN HURT ME WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'!
AH'M JUST SCARED *HE'S* GONNA BE HURT!

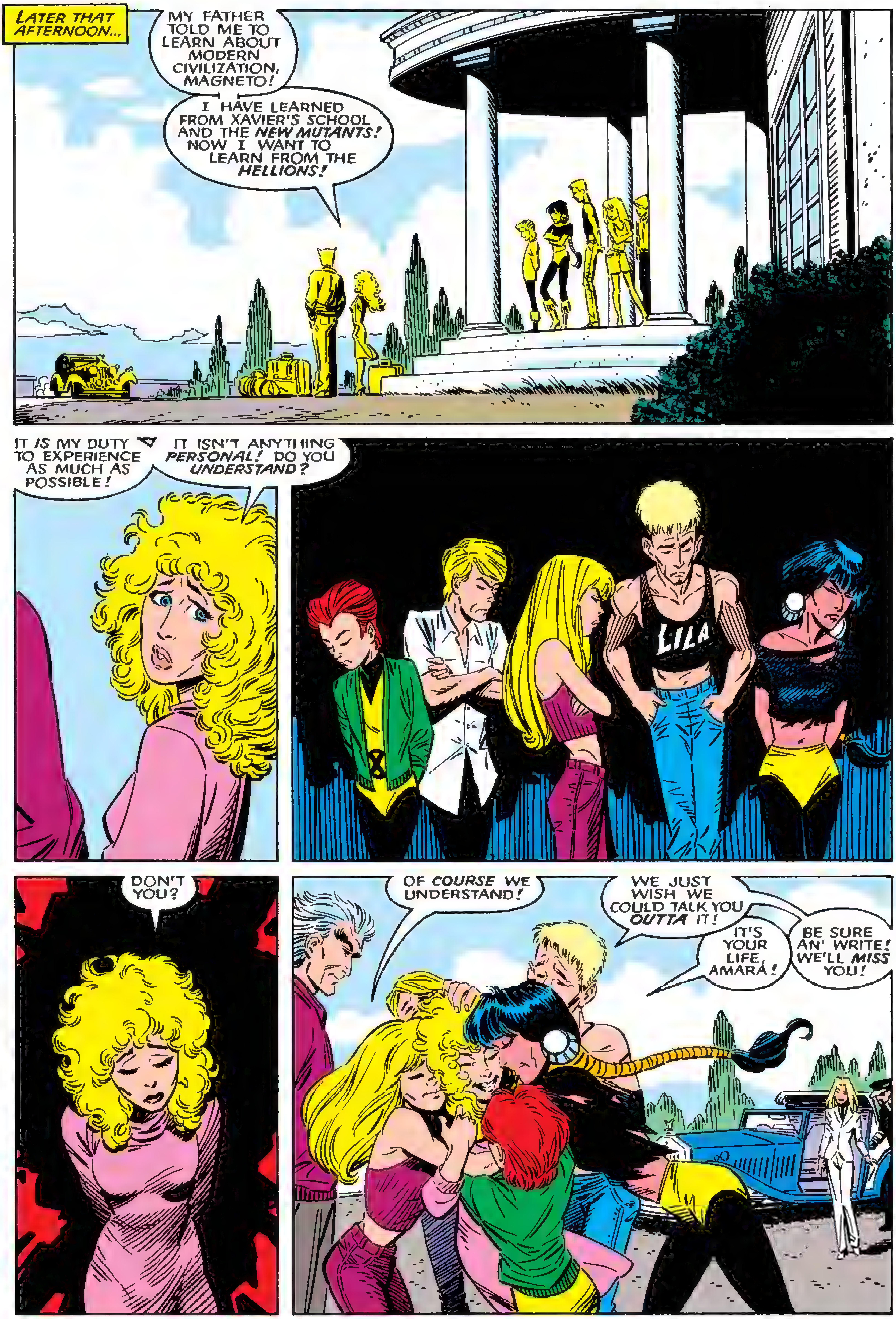

HE'S DIVING FOR DANI'S MIRAGE! PERHAPS I CAN TALK TO HIM!
BIRD BOY, CALM DOWN! LAND! TRY SOME OF THAT DELICIOUS FOOD AHEAD THAT--
HE FLEW RIGHT THROUGH IT! HE DIDN'T EVEN SLOW DOWN! HE KNOWS IT ISN'T REAL!
HE'S TOO SMART FOR THAT! WE NEED REAL FOOD!
REAL FOOD! COMING RIGHT...
...UP!
HERE, BIRD BOY! PIG OUT!
SKIP!
SKIP!
THE POOR THING! HE WAS STARVED! I'VE HEARD BIRDS HAVE AN INCREDIBLY FAST METABOLISM!
AND ISN'T HE SMART!
SMART?

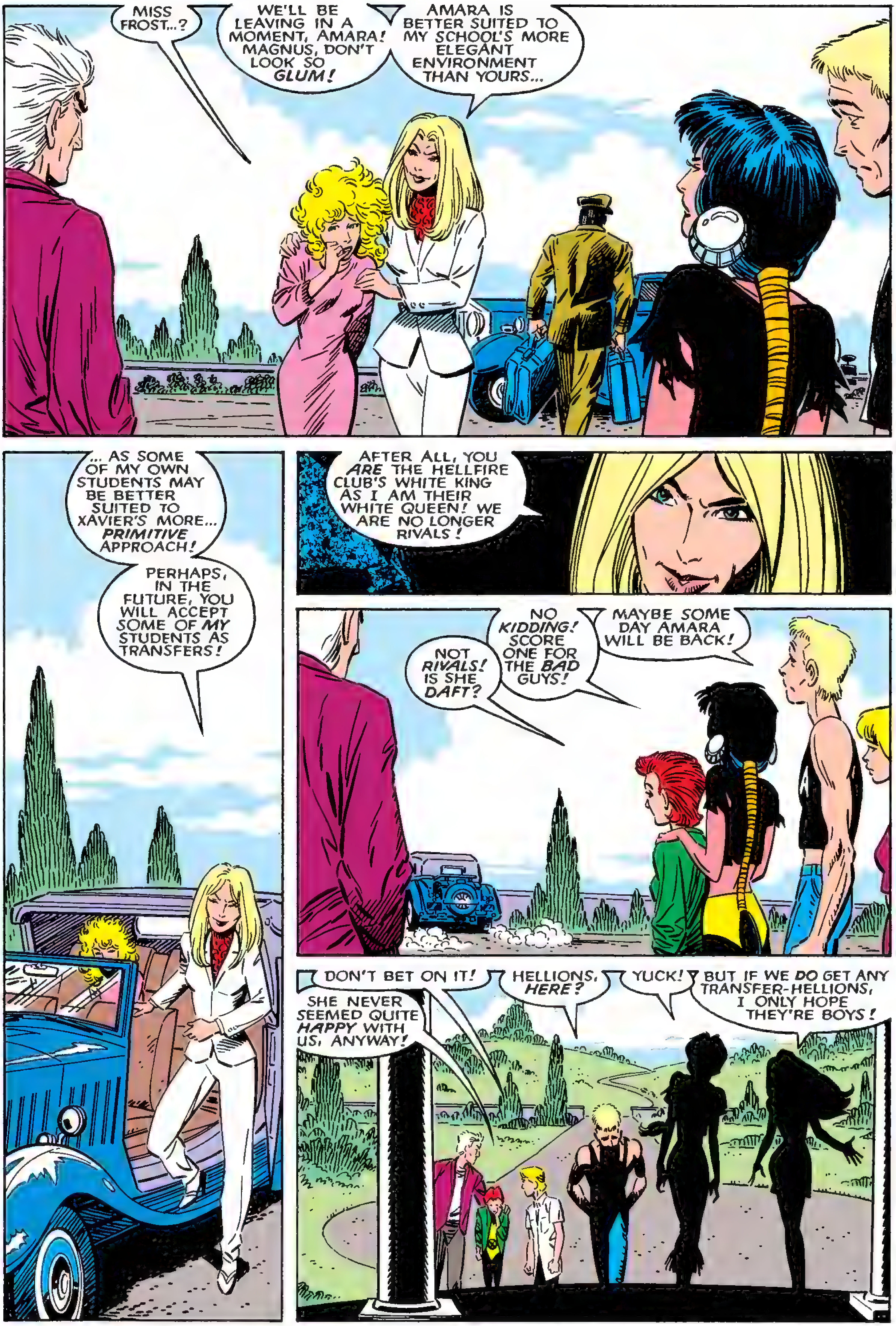

MOST *PEOPLE* WOULD BE STOPPED BY AN *ILLUSION* LIKE THAT, BUT NOT OUR *BIRD BOY!*
HE WON'T STOP TILL HE GETS THE REAL THING!
KLACK! CLINK!
LET ME HELP YOU! LOOK! IT *UNSCREWS!* SEE?
KLES
DID YOU *SEE* THAT? HE *IS* SMART! AND HE'S SO *BEAUTIFUL!*
I JUST WISH WE COULD *TALK* TO HIM! DOUG, DECIPHERING LANGUAGES IS *YOUR* POWER!
CAN'T YOU TELL WHAT HE'S *SAYING?*
PICKLES
SAYING? WHY WOULD I EVEN *WANT* TO KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING?
HA! ALL HE DOES IS *SQUAWK!*
WOULD SOMEONE MIND TELLING ME JUST *WHAT* IS GOING ON?

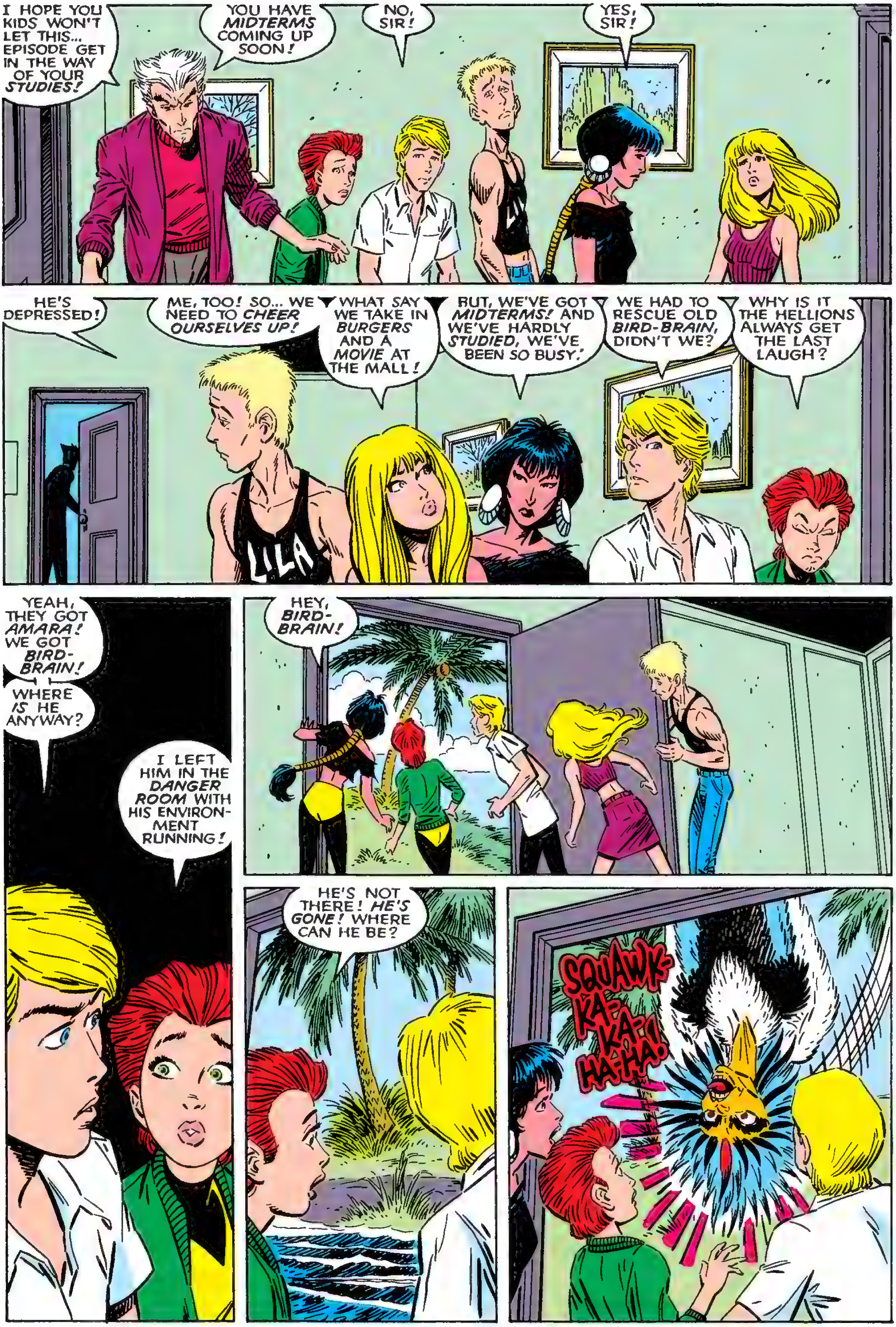

SOON...
HE'S THE BIRD BOY WHO ESCAPED IN NEW YORK, SIR! ACTUALLY SAM HELPED HIM ESCAPE... ACCIDENTALLY!
WE RESCUED HIM! WE BROUGHT HIM HOME!
WE THINK HE'S A MUTANT! CAN YOU TEST HIM ON CEREBRO TO FIND OUT?
CAN WE KEEP HIM?
CEREBRO WAS SMASHED,* BUT I'VE MANAGED TO GET THE ANALYZER WORKING!
BEFORE WE DECIDE, LET'S FIND OUT WHAT HE IS.
* IN X-MEN #213.-- Ann.
HE'S NOT HUMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE! OR NOT ENTIRELY HUMAN! MAYBE HE IS A MUTANT!
HE REGISTERS AS AN ANOMALY OF SOME KIND, BUT, QUITE FRANKLY, CEREBRO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO CLASSIFY HIM!
HE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT!
GO ON! GET BACK TO YOUR STUDIES!
HEY, RAHNE, WANT ME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR PROGRAMMING?
NOT NOW, DOUG!
CRUNCH CRUNCH
I'LL TAKE THE BIRD BOY BACK TO THE DANGER ROOM AND MAKE HIM COMFORTABLE THERE!

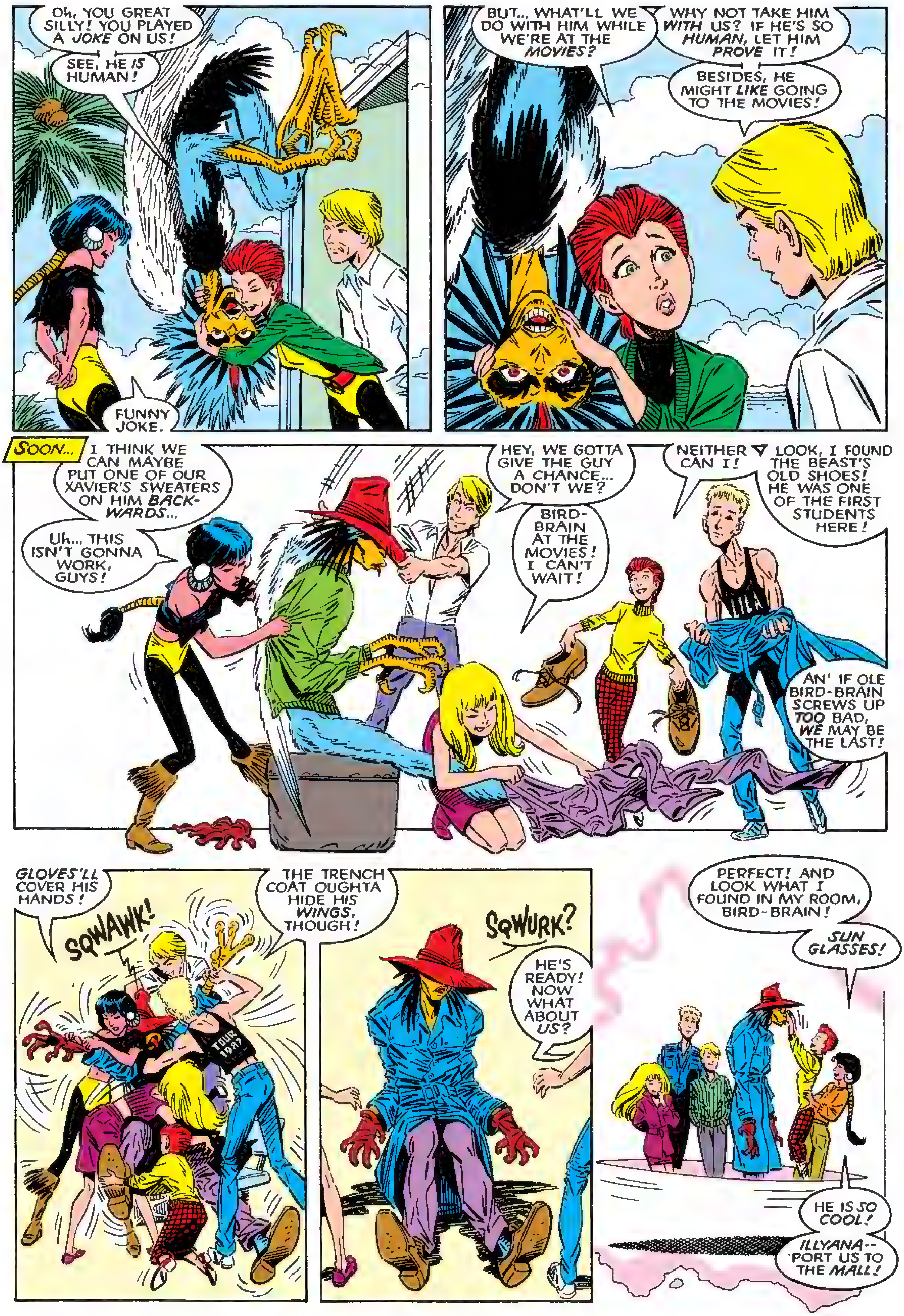

BUT SOON...
HEY, DANI, DID YOU GET #3?
NO. THAT'S A HARD ONE AND TRIG'S NOT MY STRONG SUIT! I'LL PROBABLY FLUNK THE MIDTERMS!
I DON'T *BLAME* AMARA FOR DECIDING TO LEAVE XAVIER'S AND GO TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY!
IT'S ALL A PLOY TO GET OUT OF *MIDTERMS!*
IT'S ALL A PLOY TO GET WHERE THERE'S MORE *BOYS!*
HEY, RAHNE! WHAT'S UP?
HE GETS LONELY AND *SCARED* WHEN HE'S ALONE.
WHEREVER HE'S FROM, I THINK THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND!
PEOPLE, *HA!*
OVER THERE, BIRD BOY! SIT THERE...
Oh, WELL!
I GUESS HE HAS LIGHT BONES LIKE A BIRD, OR HE'D TIP THE SCREEN OVER!
TIK TOK TIK TOK
JUST BEHAVE... OKAY? I GOTTA DO SOME ALGEBRA!
NO! NO! BAD!
HE'S TRYING TO EAT THE CHARACTERS ON THE SCREEN!
PROBABLY THINKS THEY'RE *BUGS!*
DOUG, *TALK* TO HIM! THOSE SQUAWKS HE MAKES--THEY'RE SOME KIND OF LANGUAGE, I'M SURE OF IT!
JUST TRY!

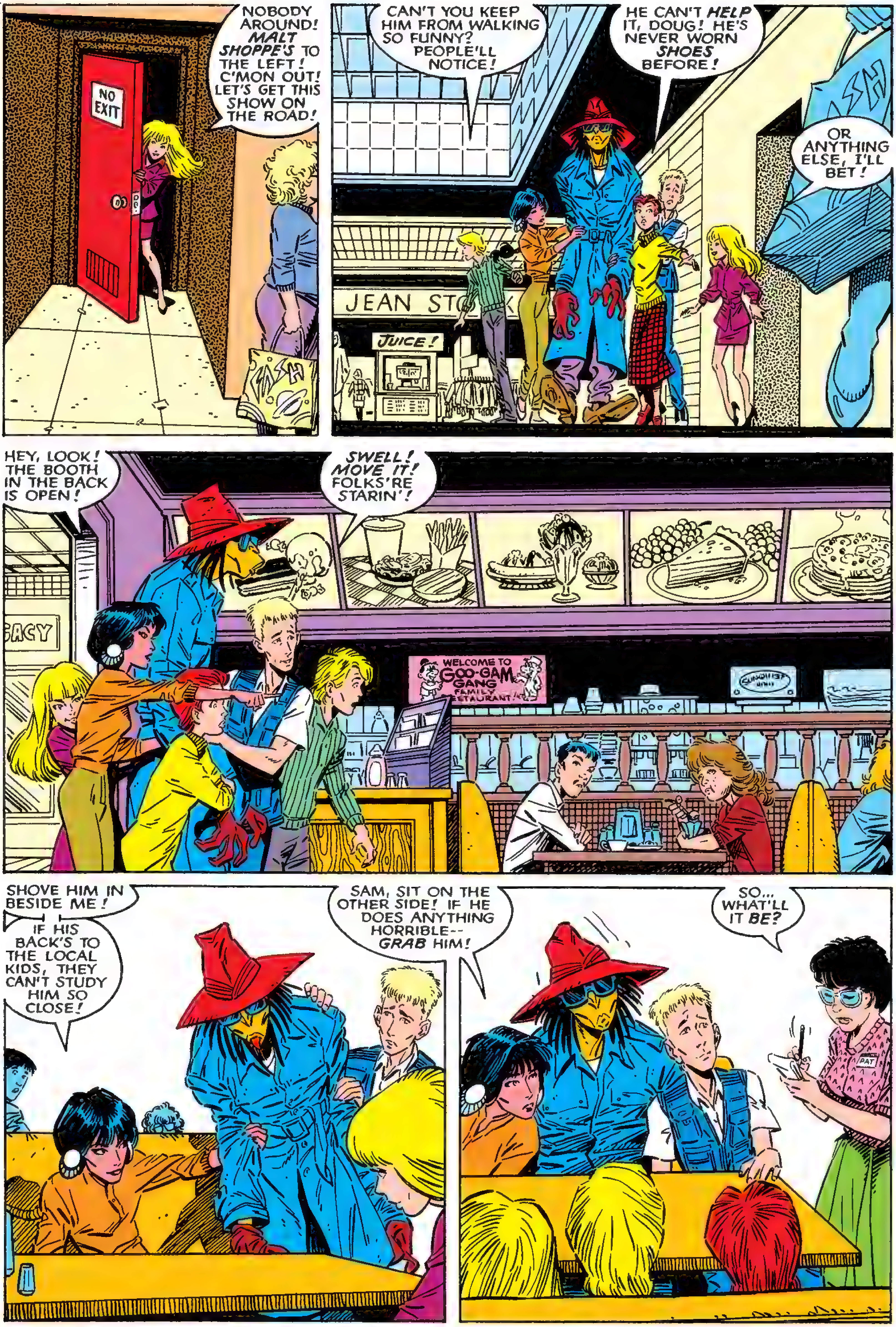

WHY *BOTHER*? YOU *HEARD* WHAT MAGNETO SAID! HE'S NOT *HUMAN!*
I KNOW! HE'S A *MUTANT!*
THEN HE'S NOT A MUTANT *HUMAN!* HE'S SOME WEIRD MUTANT *BIRD!* HE'S A STUPID *BIRD-BRAIN!*
HE IS *NOT!*
HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING WE SAY, DON'T YOU, FELLA?
AND IF HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT A *COMPUTER* IS, WELL, I'M NOT SURE *I* DO EITHER!
OR *ELECTRICITY!* OR *ATOMIC FISSION,* FOR THAT MATTER!
YOU'RE *HUNGRY,* AREN'T YOU? COME ON, BIRD BOY! LET'S GET SOME *LUNCH!*
HA! THE ONLY THING HE *UNDERSTANDS* IS *FOOD!*
GUULP
WHAT'S *WITH* YOU, DOUG? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO PASS UP THE CHANCE TO DECIPHER A *LANGUAGE!*
YOU WOULDN'T, BY ANY CHANCE, BE *JEALOUS* OF OLE BIRD-BRAIN, WOULD YOU?
JEALOUS, *ME? HA!* WHAT HAVE *I* GOT TO BE JEALOUS OF?

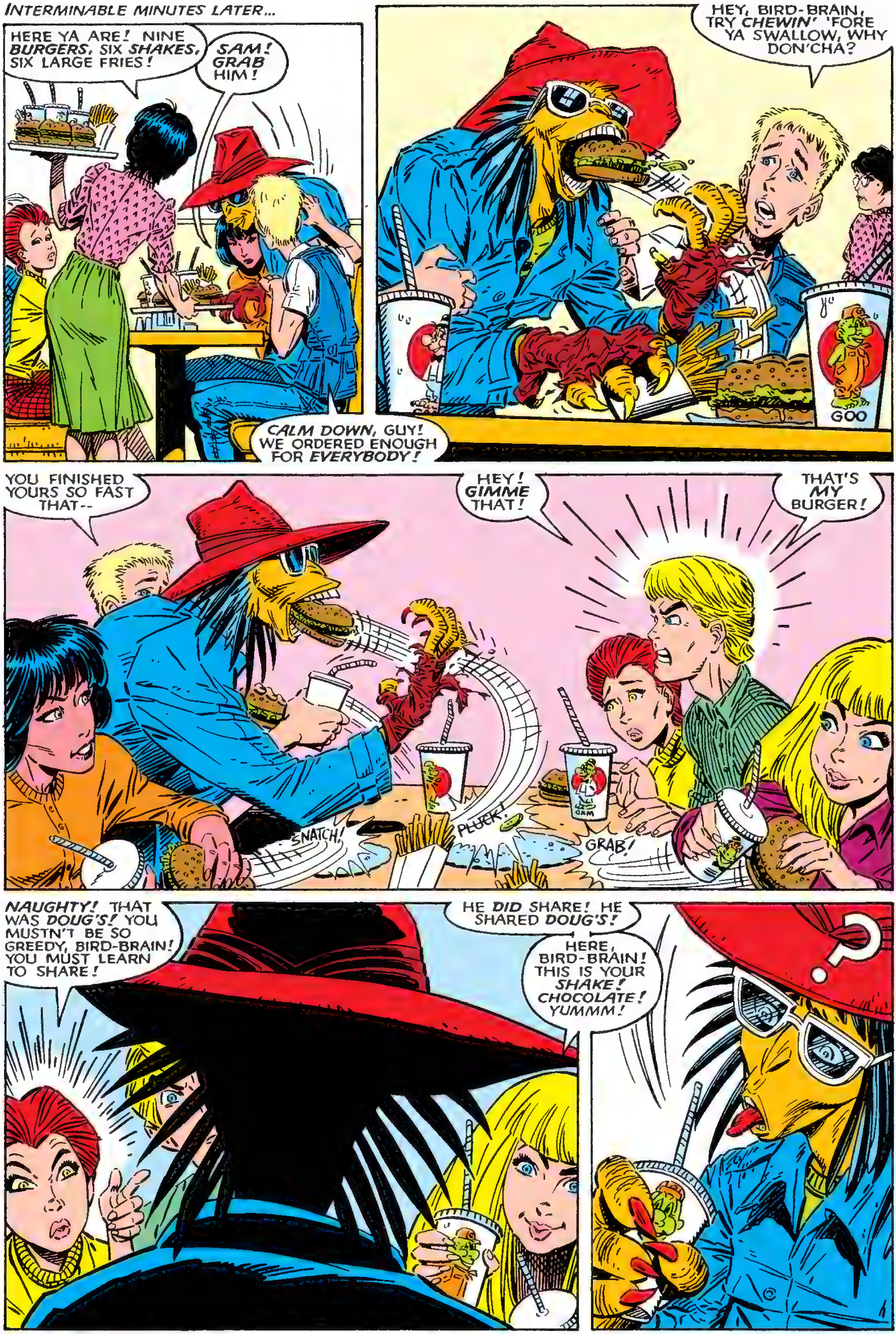

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
MY FATHER TOLD ME TO LEARN ABOUT MODERN CIVILIZATION, MAGNETO!
I HAVE LEARNED FROM XAVIER'S SCHOOL AND THE *NEW MUTANTS!* NOW I WANT TO LEARN FROM THE *HELLIONS!*
IT *IS* MY DUTY TO EXPERIENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
IT ISN'T ANYTHING *PERSONAL!* DO YOU *UNDERSTAND?*
LILA
DON'T YOU?
OF *COURSE* WE UNDERSTAND!
WE JUST WISH WE COULD TALK YOU *OUTTA* IT!
IT'S YOUR LIFE, AMARA!
BE SURE AN' WRITE! WE'LL *MISS* YOU!

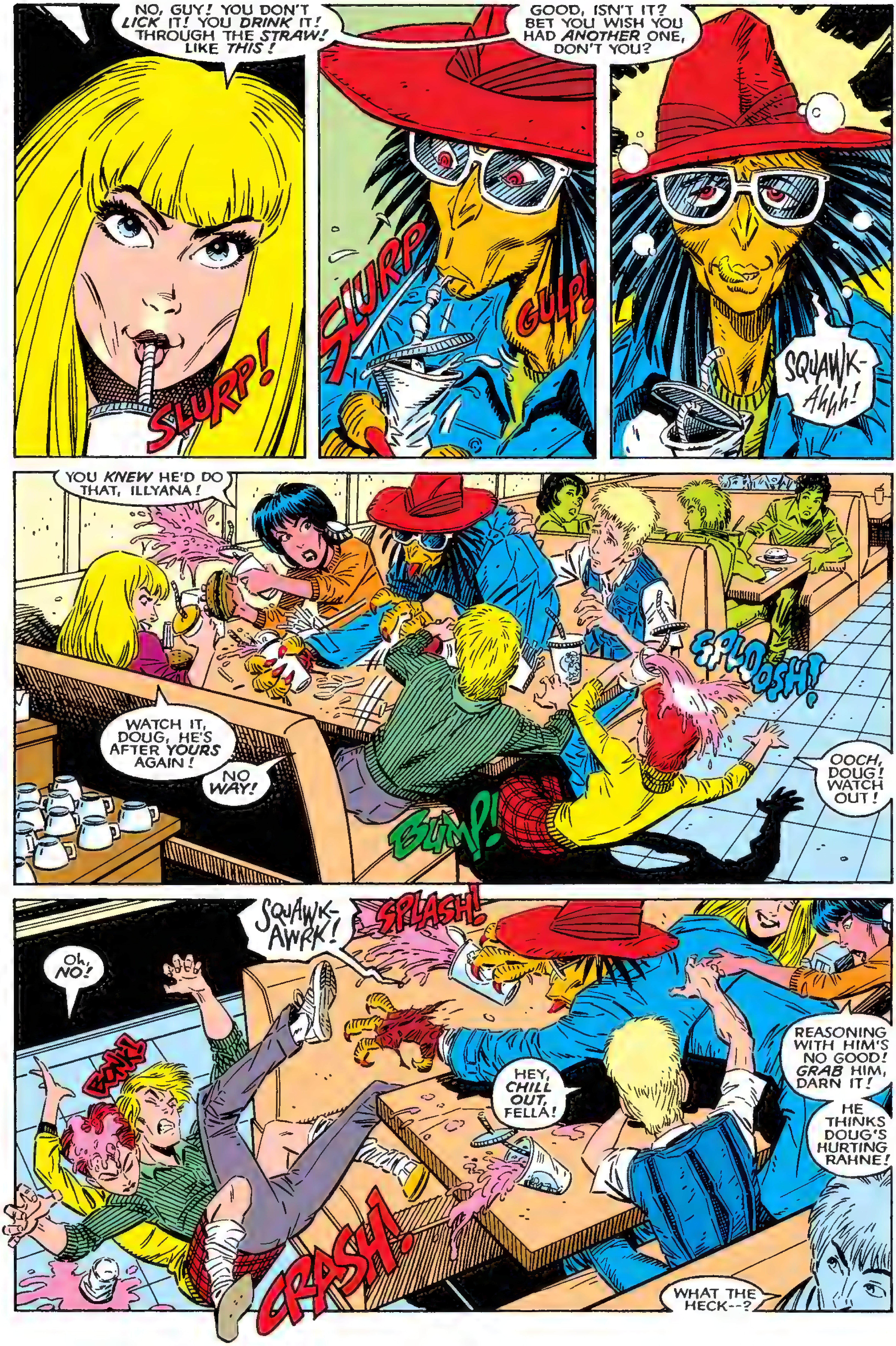

MISS FROST...?
WE'LL BE LEAVING IN A MOMENT, AMARA! MAGNUS, DON'T LOOK SO *GLUM!*
AMARA IS BETTER SUITED TO MY SCHOOL'S MORE ELEGANT ENVIRONMENT THAN YOURS...
... AS SOME OF MY OWN STUDENTS MAY BE BETTER SUITED TO XAVIER'S MORE... *PRIMITIVE* APPROACH!
PERHAPS, IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL ACCEPT SOME OF *MY* STUDENTS AS TRANSFERS!
AFTER ALL, YOU *ARE* THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S WHITE KING AS I AM THEIR WHITE QUEEN! WE ARE NO LONGER RIVALS!
NOT *RIVALS!* IS SHE *DAFT?*
NO *KIDDING!* SCORE ONE FOR THE *BAD* GUYS!
MAYBE SOME DAY AMARA WILL BE BACK!
DON'T BET ON IT! SHE NEVER SEEMED QUITE *HAPPY* WITH US, ANYWAY!
HELLIONS, *HERE?*
YUCK!
BUT IF WE *DO* GET ANY TRANSFER-HELLIONS, I ONLY HOPE THEY'RE BOYS!

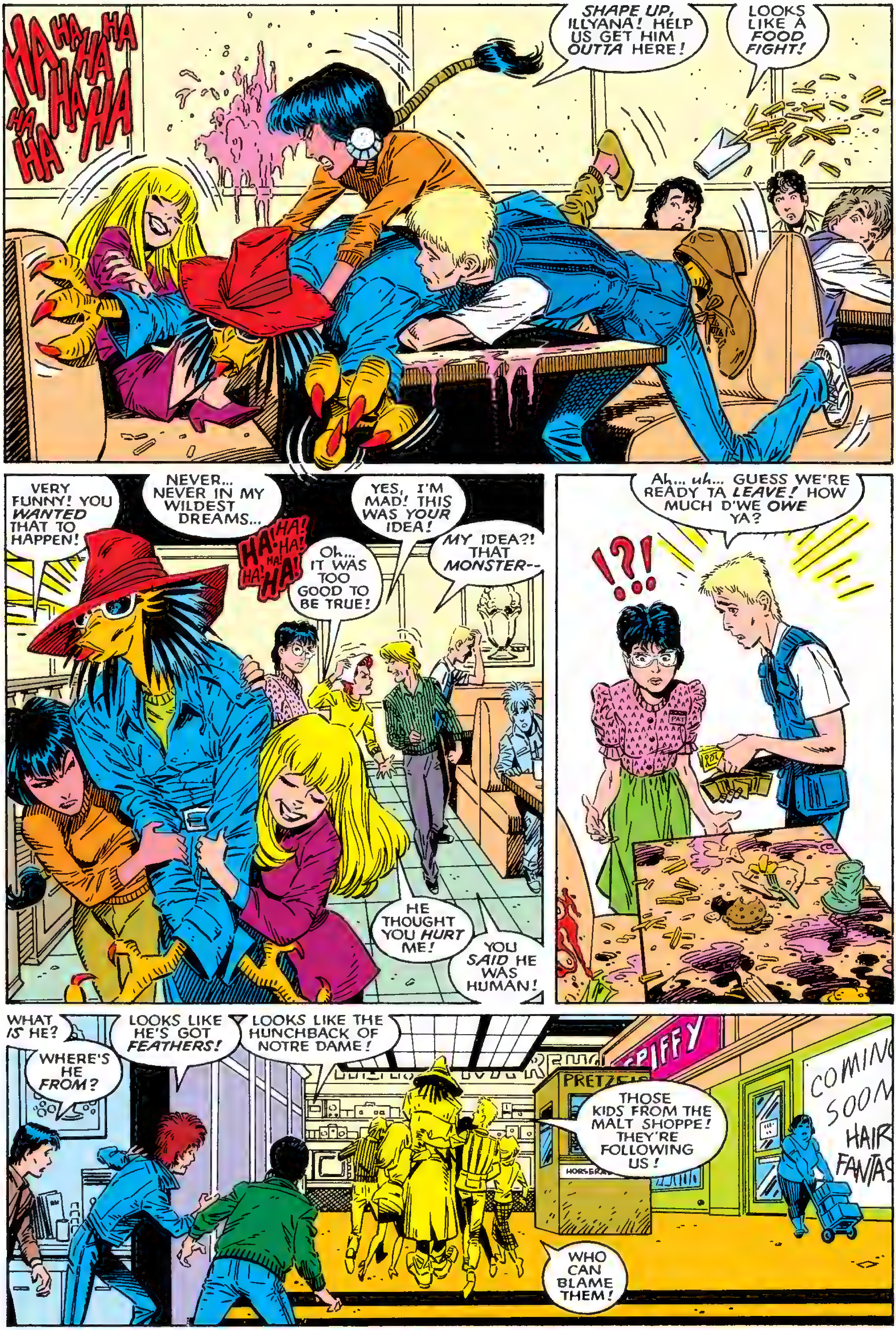

I HOPE YOU KIDS WON'T LET THIS... EPISODE GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR *STUDIES!*
YOU HAVE *MIDTERMS* COMING UP SOON!
NO, SIR!
YES, SIR!
HE'S DEPRESSED!
ME, TOO! SO... WE NEED TO *CHEER OURSELVES UP!*
WHAT SAY WE TAKE IN *BURGERS* AND A *MOVIE* AT THE MALL!
BUT, WE'VE GOT *MIDTERMS!* AND WE'VE HARDLY *STUDIED,* WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY.
WE HAD TO RESCUE OLD *BIRD-BRAIN,* DIDN'T WE?
WHY IS IT THE HELLIONS ALWAYS GET THE LAST LAUGH?
YEAH, THEY GOT *AMARA!* WE GOT *BIRD-BRAIN!*
WHERE *IS* HE ANYWAY?
I LEFT HIM IN THE *DANGER ROOM* WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT RUNNING!
HEY, *BIRD-BRAIN!*
HE'S NOT THERE! *HE'S GONE!* WHERE CAN HE BE?
SQUAWK-KA-KA-HA-HA!

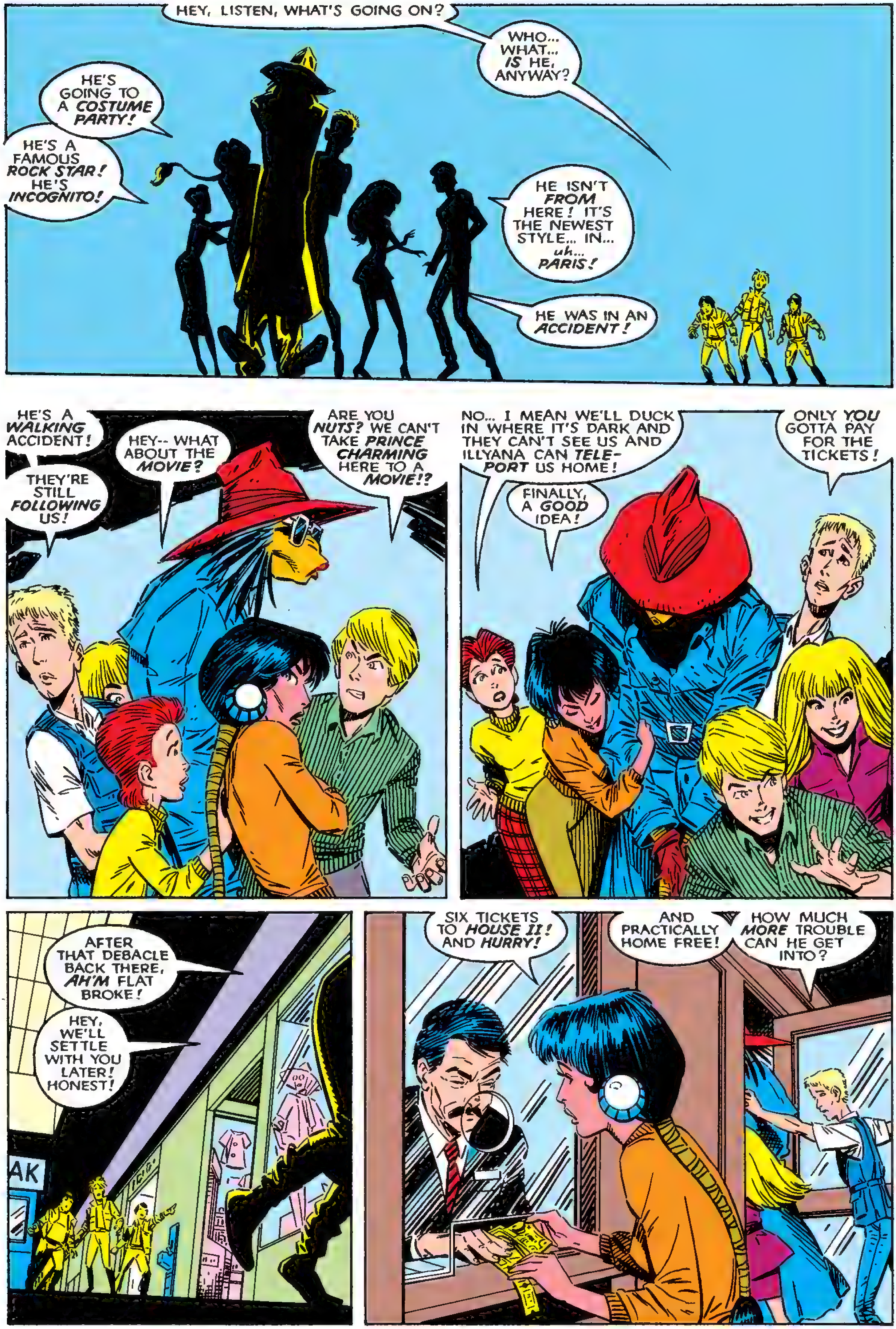

Oh, YOU GREAT SILLY! YOU PLAYED A *JOKE* ON US!
SEE, HE *IS* HUMAN!
FUNNY JOKE.
BUT... WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM WHILE WE'RE AT THE *MOVIES*?
WHY NOT TAKE HIM *WITH* US? IF HE'S SO *HUMAN*, LET HIM *PROVE* IT!
BESIDES, HE MIGHT *LIKE* GOING TO THE MOVIES!
SOON...
I THINK WE CAN MAYBE PUT ONE OF OUR XAVIER'S SWEATERS ON HIM *BACKWARDS*...
Uh... THIS ISN'T GONNA WORK, GUYS!
HEY, WE GOTTA GIVE THE GUY A CHANCE... DON'T WE?
BIRD-BRAIN AT THE MOVIES! I CAN'T WAIT!
NEITHER CAN I!
LOOK, I FOUND THE BEAST'S OLD SHOES! HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STUDENTS HERE!
AN' IF OLE BIRD-BRAIN SCREWS UP *TOO* BAD, *WE* MAY BE THE LAST!
GLOVES'LL COVER HIS HANDS!
THE TRENCH COAT OUGHTA HIDE HIS *WINGS*, THOUGH!
SQWAWK!
TOUR 1987
SQWURK?
HE'S READY! NOW WHAT ABOUT *US*?
PERFECT! AND LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN MY ROOM, BIRD-BRAIN!
SUN GLASSES!
HE IS *SO COOL!*
ILLYANA-- 'PORT US TO THE *MALL!*

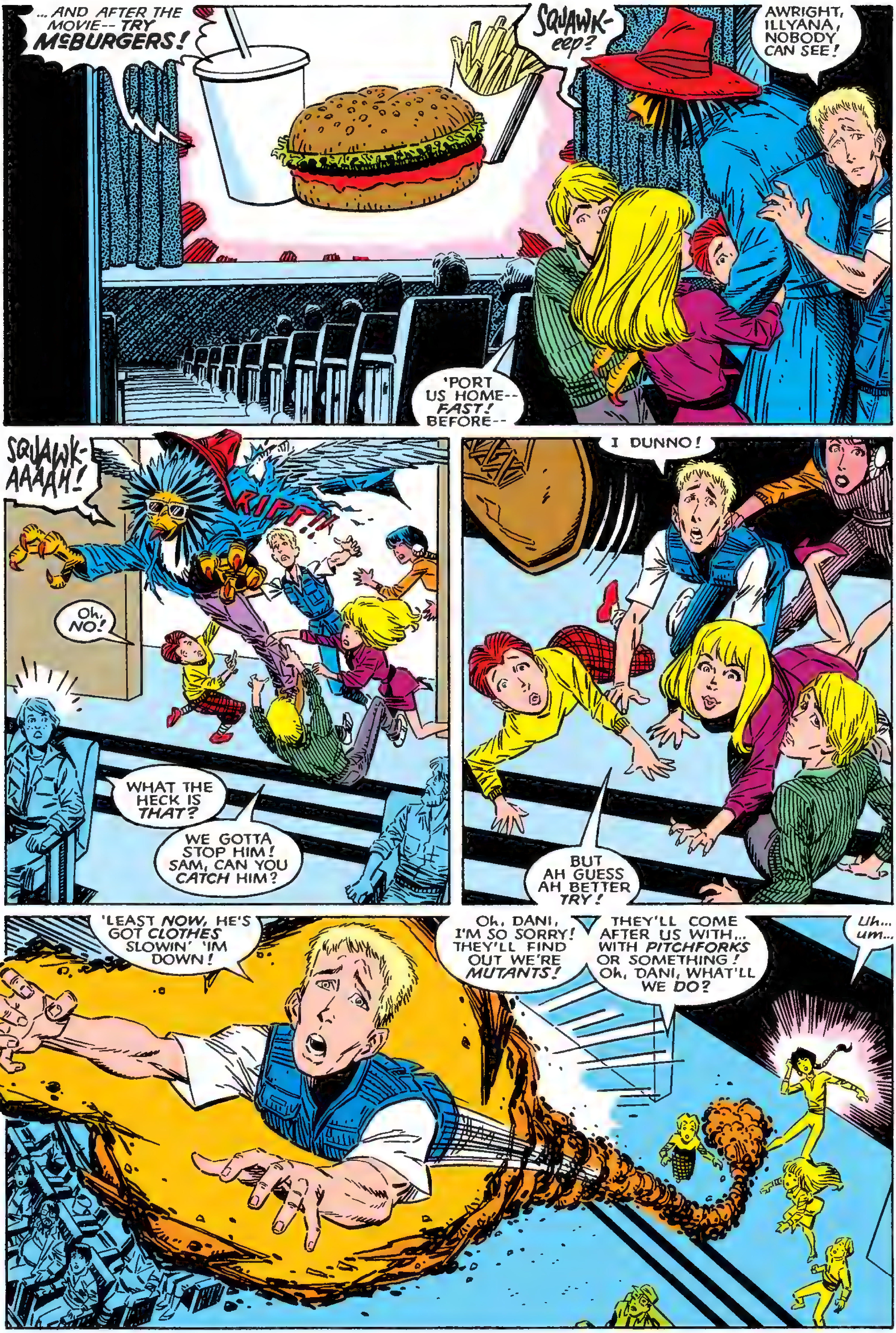

NO EXIT
NOBODY AROUND! MALT SHOPPE'S TO THE LEFT! C'MON OUT! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
CAN'T YOU KEEP HIM FROM WALKING SO FUNNY? PEOPLE'LL NOTICE!
HE CAN'T HELP IT, DOUG! HE'S NEVER WORN SHOES BEFORE!
OR ANYTHING ELSE, I'LL BET!
JEAN ST
JUICE!
HEY, LOOK! THE BOOTH IN THE BACK IS OPEN!
SWELL! MOVE IT! FOLKS'RE STARIN'!
WELCOME TO GOO-GAM GANG FAMILY RESTAURANT!
SHOVE HIM IN BESIDE ME!
IF HIS BACK'S TO THE LOCAL KIDS, THEY CAN'T STUDY HIM SO CLOSE!
SAM, SIT ON THE OTHER SIDE! IF HE DOES ANYTHING HORRIBLE-- GRAB HIM!
SO... WHAT'LL IT BE?
PAT

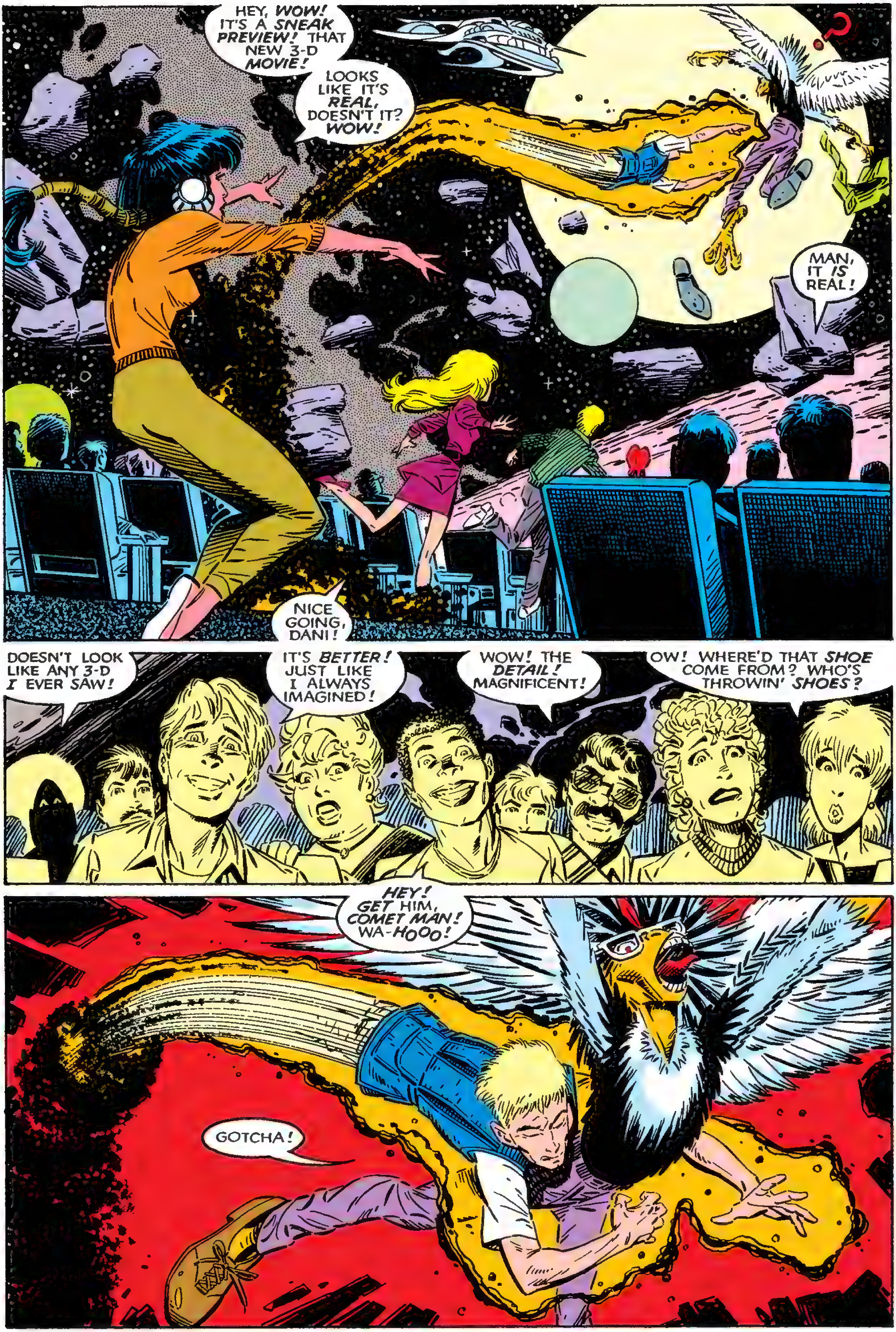

INTERMINABLE MINUTES LATER...
HERE YA ARE! NINE BURGERS, SIX SHAKES, SIX LARGE FRIES!
SAM! GRAB HIM!
CALM DOWN, GUY! WE ORDERED ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY!
HEY, BIRD-BRAIN, TRY CHEWIN' 'FORE YA SWALLOW, WHY DON'CHA?
GOO
YOU FINISHED YOURS SO FAST THAT--
HEY! GIMME THAT!
THAT'S MY BURGER!
SNATCH!
PLUCK!
GRAB!
SAM
NAUGHTY! THAT WAS DOUG'S! YOU MUSTN'T BE SO GREEDY, BIRD-BRAIN! YOU MUST LEARN TO SHARE!
HE DID SHARE! HE SHARED DOUG'S!
HERE, BIRD-BRAIN! THIS IS YOUR SHAKE! CHOCOLATE! YUMMM!
?

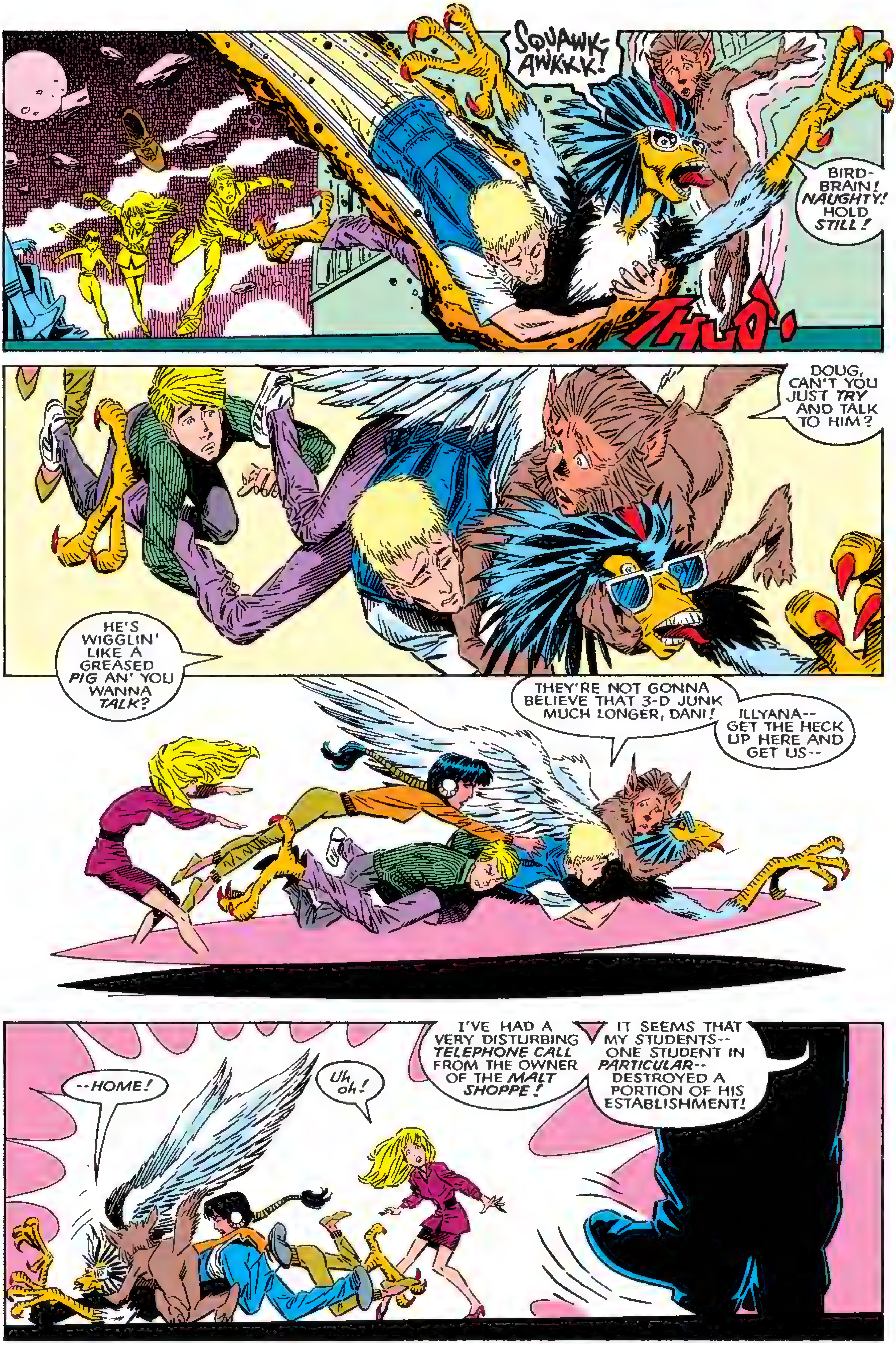

NO, GUY! YOU DON'T *LICK* IT! YOU *DRINK* IT! THROUGH THE *STRAW!* LIKE *THIS!*
SLURP!
GOOD, ISN'T IT? BET YOU WISH YOU HAD *ANOTHER* ONE, DON'T YOU?
SLURP
GULP!
SQUAWK-Ahhh!
YOU *KNEW* HE'D DO THAT, ILLYANA!
SPLOOSH!
WATCH IT, DOUG, HE'S AFTER *YOURS* AGAIN!
NO *WAY!*
OOCH, DOUG! WATCH OUT!
BUMP!
SQUAWK-AWRK!
SPLASH!
Oh, *NO!*
BONK!
HEY, *CHILL OUT,* FELLA!
REASONING WITH HIM'S NO GOOD! *GRAB* HIM, DARN IT!
HE THINKS DOUG'S HURTING RAHNE!
CRASH!
WHAT THE HECK--?

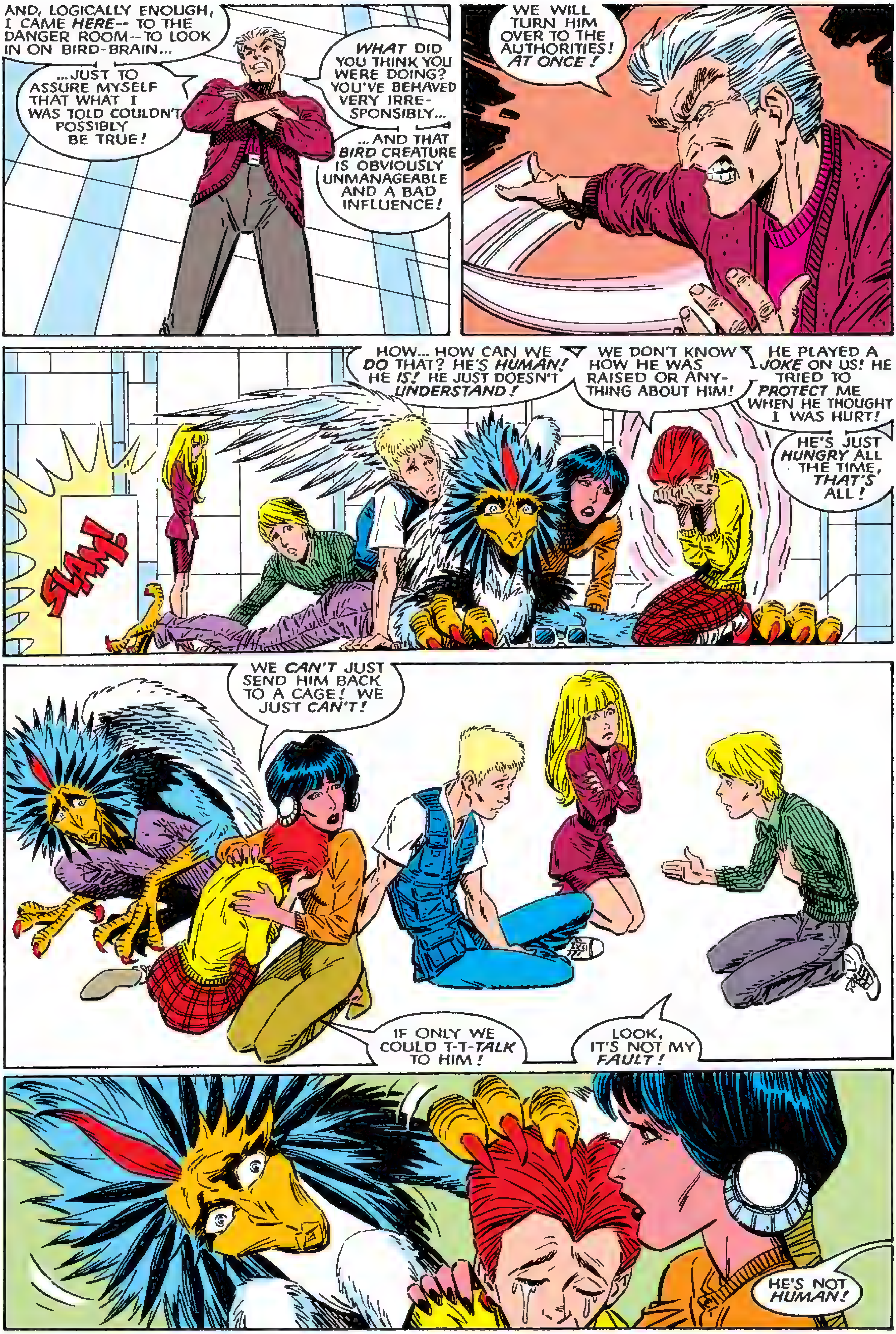

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SHAPE UP, ILLYANA! HELP US GET HIM *OUTTA* HERE!
LOOKS LIKE A *FOOD FIGHT!*
VERY FUNNY! YOU *WANTED* THAT TO HAPPEN!
NEVER... NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS...
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
YES, I'M MAD! THIS WAS *YOUR* IDEA!
Oh... IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
MY IDEA?! THAT *MONSTER--*
HE THOUGHT YOU *HURT* ME!
YOU *SAID* HE WAS HUMAN!
!?!!
Ah... uh... GUESS WE'RE READY TA *LEAVE!* HOW MUCH D'WE *OWE* YA?
PAT
WHAT *IS* HE?
WHERE'S HE *FROM?*
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT *FEATHERS!*
LOOKS LIKE THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME!
SPIFFY
PRETZELS
THOSE KIDS FROM THE MALT SHOPPE! THEY'RE FOLLOWING US!
COMING SOON HAIR FANTAS
WHO CAN BLAME THEM!

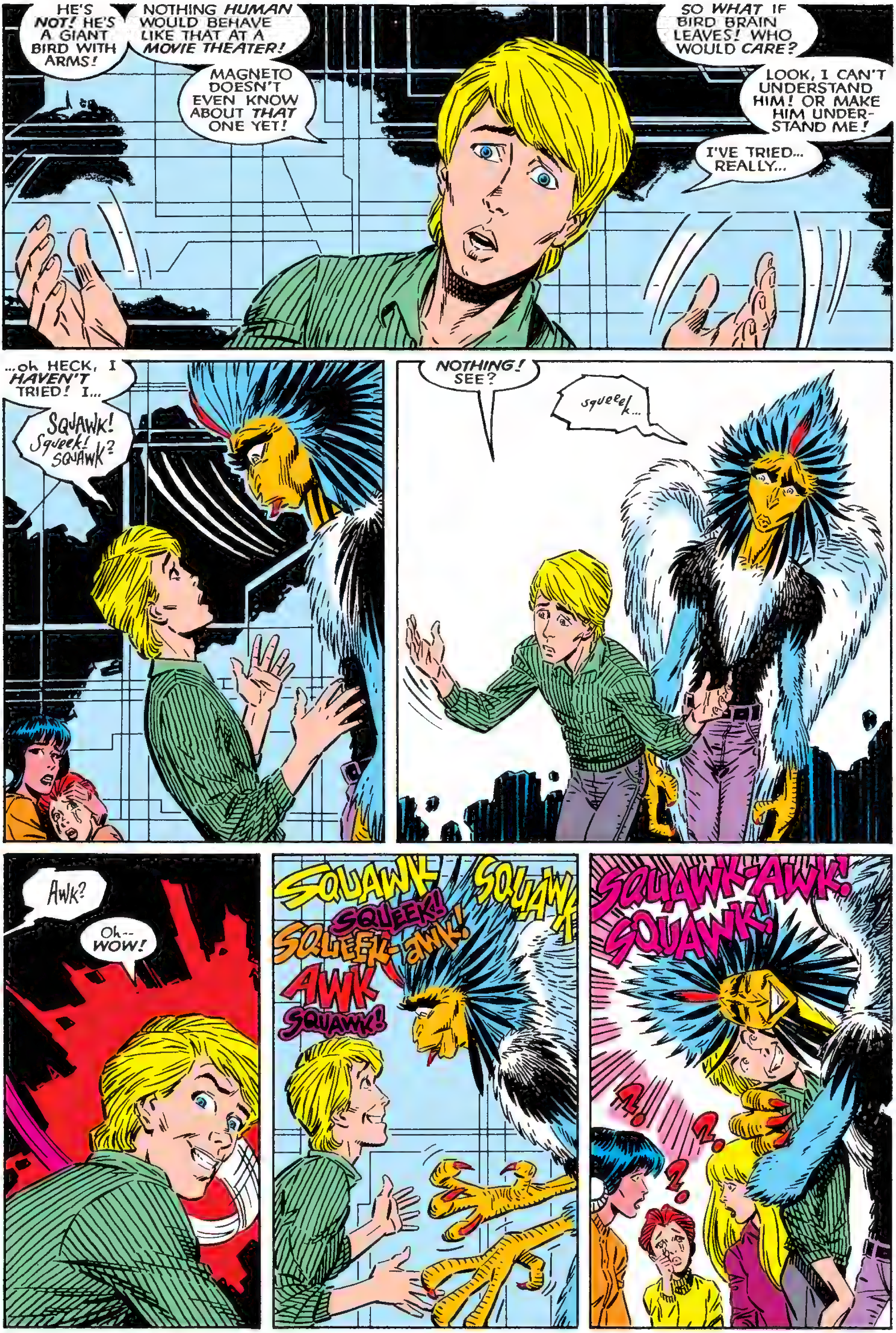

HEY, LISTEN, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO... WHAT... IS HE, ANYWAY?
HE'S GOING TO A COSTUME PARTY!
HE'S A FAMOUS ROCK STAR! HE'S INCOGNITO!
HE ISN'T FROM HERE! IT'S THE NEWEST STYLE... IN... uh... PARIS!
HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT!
HE'S A WALKING ACCIDENT!
THEY'RE STILL FOLLOWING US!
HEY-- WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIE?
ARE YOU NUTS? WE CAN'T TAKE PRINCE CHARMING HERE TO A MOVIE!?
NO... I MEAN WE'LL DUCK IN WHERE IT'S DARK AND THEY CAN'T SEE US AND ILLYANA CAN TELE-PORT US HOME!
FINALLY, A GOOD IDEA!
ONLY YOU GOTTA PAY FOR THE TICKETS!
AFTER THAT DEBACLE BACK THERE, AH'M FLAT BROKE!
HEY, WE'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER! HONEST!
AK
SIX TICKETS TO HOUSE II! AND HURRY!
AND PRACTICALLY HOME FREE!
HOW MUCH MORE TROUBLE CAN HE GET INTO?

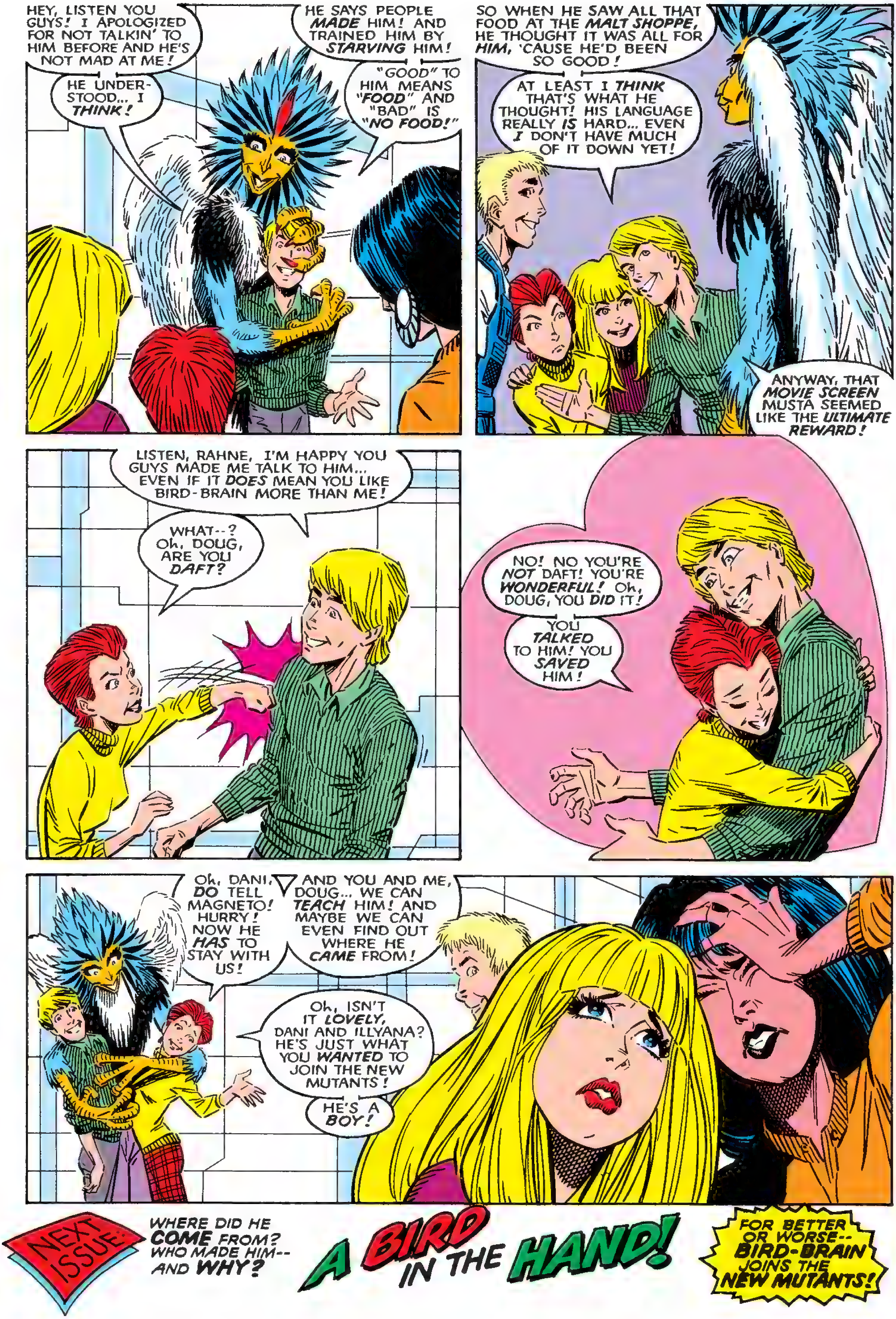

...AND AFTER THE MOVIE-- TRY McBURGERS!
SQUAWK-eep?
AWRIGHT, ILLYANA, NOBODY CAN SEE!
'PORT US HOME-- FAST! BEFORE--
SQUAWK-AAAAH!
RIPPP!!
Oh, NO!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
WE GOTTA STOP HIM! SAM, CAN YOU CATCH HIM?
I DUNNO!
BUT AH GUESS AH BETTER TRY!
'LEAST NOW, HE'S GOT CLOTHES SLOWIN' 'IM DOWN!
Oh, DANI, I'M SO SORRY! THEY'LL FIND OUT WE'RE MUTANTS!
THEY'LL COME AFTER US WITH... WITH PITCHFORKS OR SOMETHING! Oh, DANI, WHAT'LL WE DO?
Uh... um...


HEY, *WOW!* IT'S A *SNEAK PREVIEW!* THAT NEW 3-D *MOVIE!*
LOOKS LIKE IT'S *REAL,* DOESN'T IT? *WOW!*
MAN, IT *IS* REAL!
NICE GOING, DANI!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANY 3-D *I* EVER SAW!
IT'S *BETTER!* JUST LIKE I ALWAYS IMAGINED!
WOW! THE *DETAIL!* MAGNIFICENT!
OW! WHERE'D THAT *SHOE* COME FROM? WHO'S THROWIN' *SHOES?*
HEY! GET HIM, *COMET MAN!* WA-*HOOO!*
GOTCHA!


SQUAWK-AWKKK!
BIRD-BRAIN! *NAUGHTY!* HOLD *STILL!*
THUD!
DOUG, CAN'T YOU JUST *TRY* AND TALK TO HIM?
HE'S WIGGLIN' LIKE A GREASED *PIG* AN' YOU WANNA *TALK?*
THEY'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THAT 3-D JUNK MUCH LONGER, DANI!
ILLYANA-- GET THE HECK UP HERE AND GET US--
--*HOME!*
Uh oh!
I'VE HAD A VERY DISTURBING *TELEPHONE CALL* FROM THE OWNER OF THE *MALT SHOPPE!*
IT SEEMS THAT MY *STUDENTS*-- ONE STUDENT IN *PARTICULAR*-- DESTROYED A PORTION OF HIS ESTABLISHMENT!


AND, LOGICALLY ENOUGH, I CAME *HERE*-- TO THE DANGER ROOM-- TO LOOK IN ON BIRD-BRAIN...
...JUST TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT WHAT I WAS TOLD COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE!
WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING? YOU'VE BEHAVED VERY IRRESPONSIBLY...
...AND THAT *BIRD* CREATURE IS OBVIOUSLY UNMANAGEABLE AND A BAD INFLUENCE!
WE WILL TURN HIM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES! *AT ONCE!*
HOW... HOW CAN WE *DO* THAT? HE'S *HUMAN!* HE *IS!* HE JUST DOESN'T *UNDERSTAND!*
WE DON'T KNOW HOW HE WAS RAISED OR ANYTHING ABOUT HIM!
HE PLAYED A *JOKE* ON US! HE TRIED TO *PROTECT* ME WHEN HE THOUGHT I WAS HURT!
HE'S JUST *HUNGRY* ALL THE TIME, *THAT'S* ALL!
SLAM!
WE *CAN'T* JUST SEND HIM BACK TO A CAGE! WE JUST *CAN'T!*
IF ONLY WE COULD T-T-*TALK* TO HIM!
LOOK, IT'S NOT MY *FAULT!*
HE'S NOT *HUMAN!*


HE'S *NOT!* HE'S A GIANT BIRD WITH ARMS!
NOTHING *HUMAN* WOULD BEHAVE LIKE THAT AT A *MOVIE THEATER!*
MAGNETO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT *THAT* ONE YET!
SO *WHAT* IF BIRD BRAIN LEAVES! WHO WOULD *CARE?*
LOOK, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HIM! OR MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND ME!
I'VE TRIED... REALLY...
...oh HECK, I *HAVEN'T* TRIED! I...
SQUAWK! Squeek! SQUAWK?
NOTHING! SEE?
squeeek...
AWK?
Oh-- WOW!
SQUAWK
SQUAWK
SQUEEK!
SQUEEK-awk!
AWK
SQUAWK!
SQUAWK-AWK!
SQUAWK!
?
?
?


HEY, LISTEN YOU GUYS! I APOLOGIZED FOR NOT TALKIN' TO HIM BEFORE AND HE'S NOT MAD AT ME!
HE UNDERSTOOD... I THINK!
HE SAYS PEOPLE MADE HIM! AND TRAINED HIM BY STARVING HIM!
"GOOD" TO HIM MEANS "FOOD" AND "BAD" IS "NO FOOD!"
SO WHEN HE SAW ALL THAT FOOD AT THE MALT SHOPPE, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL FOR HIM, 'CAUSE HE'D BEEN SO GOOD!
AT LEAST I THINK THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT! HIS LANGUAGE REALLY IS HARD... EVEN I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF IT DOWN YET!
ANYWAY, THAT MOVIE SCREEN MUSTA SEEMED LIKE THE ULTIMATE REWARD!
LISTEN, RAHNE, I'M HAPPY YOU GUYS MADE ME TALK TO HIM... EVEN IF IT DOES MEAN YOU LIKE BIRD-BRAIN MORE THAN ME!
WHAT--? Oh, DOUG, ARE YOU DAFT?
NO! NO YOU'RE NOT DAFT! YOU'RE WONDERFUL! Oh, DOUG, YOU DID IT!
YOU TALKED TO HIM! YOU SAVED HIM!
Oh, DANI, DO TELL MAGNETO! HURRY! NOW HE HAS TO STAY WITH US!
AND YOU AND ME, DOUG... WE CAN TEACH HIM! AND MAYBE WE CAN EVEN FIND OUT WHERE HE CAME FROM!
Oh, ISN'T IT LOVELY, DANI AND ILLYANA? HE'S JUST WHAT YOU WANTED TO JOIN THE NEW MUTANTS!
HE'S A BOY!
NEXT ISSUE:
WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHO MADE HIM-- AND WHY?
A BIRD IN THE HAND!
FOR BETTER OR WORSE-- BIRD-BRAIN JOINS THE NEW MUTANTS!

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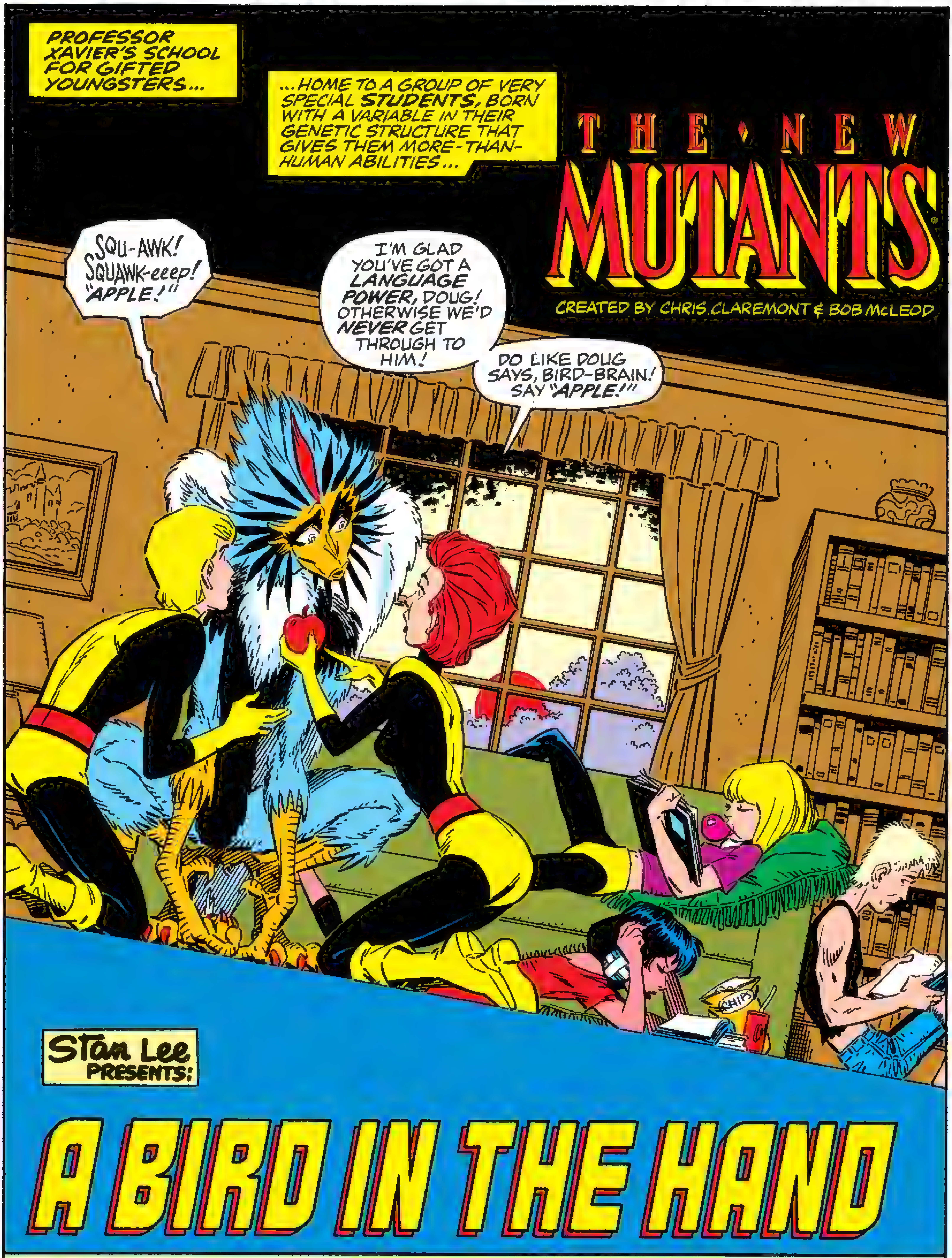
THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS IS COMING!
BLEVINS/AUSTIN


PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
...HOME TO A GROUP OF VERY SPECIAL STUDENTS, BORN WITH A VARIABLE IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM MORE-THAN-HUMAN ABILITIES...
THE NEW MUTANTS
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD
SQU-AWK! SQUAWK-eeep! "APPLE!"
I'M GLAD YOU'VE GOT A LANGUAGE POWER, DOUG! OTHERWISE WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH TO HIM!
DO LIKE DOUG SAYS, BIRD-BRAIN! SAY "APPLE!"
CHIPS
STAN LEE PRESENTS:

A BIRD IN THE HAND

LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
BRET BLEVINS & OFF THE WALL STUDIOS PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN INKER
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST
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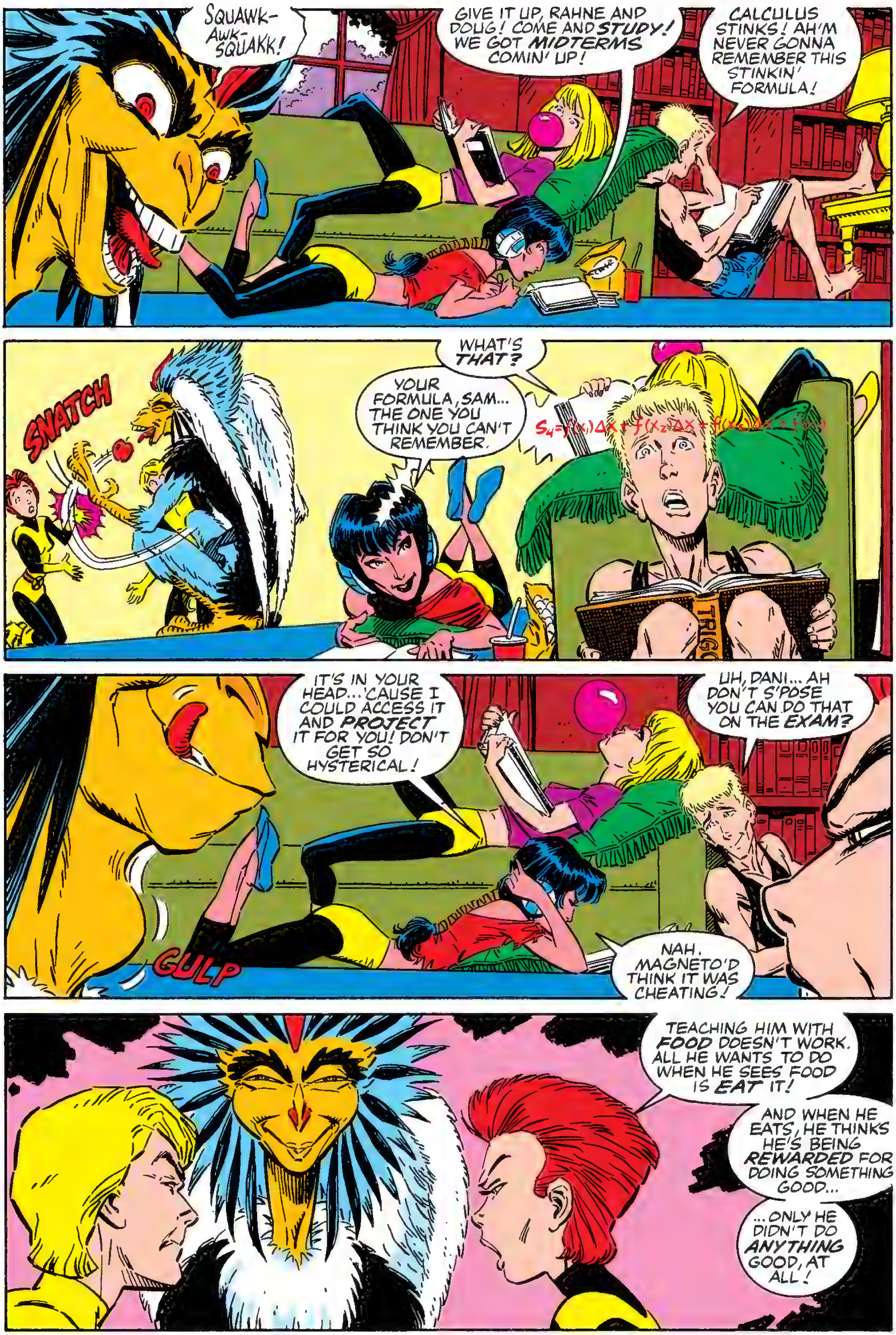
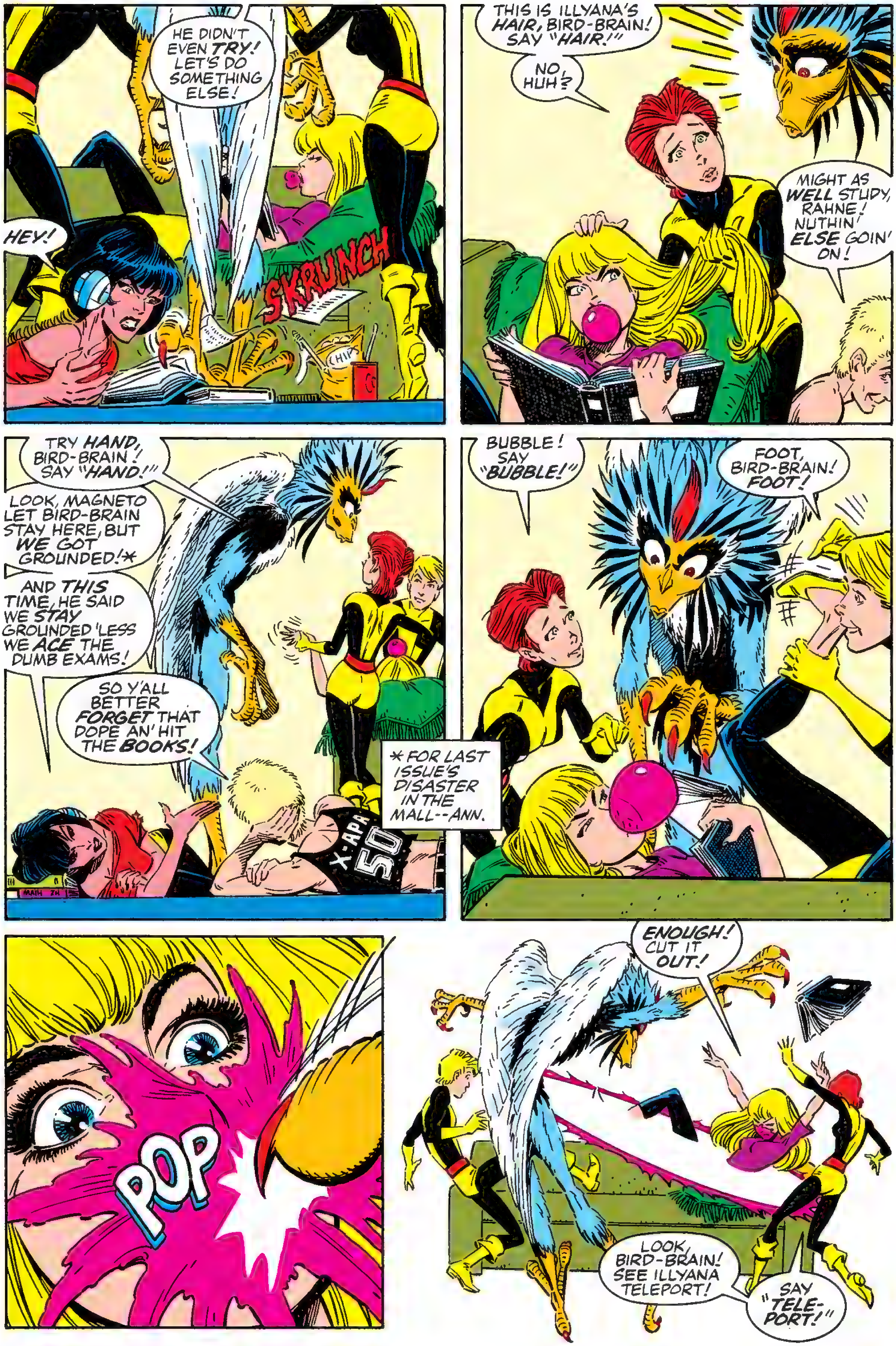
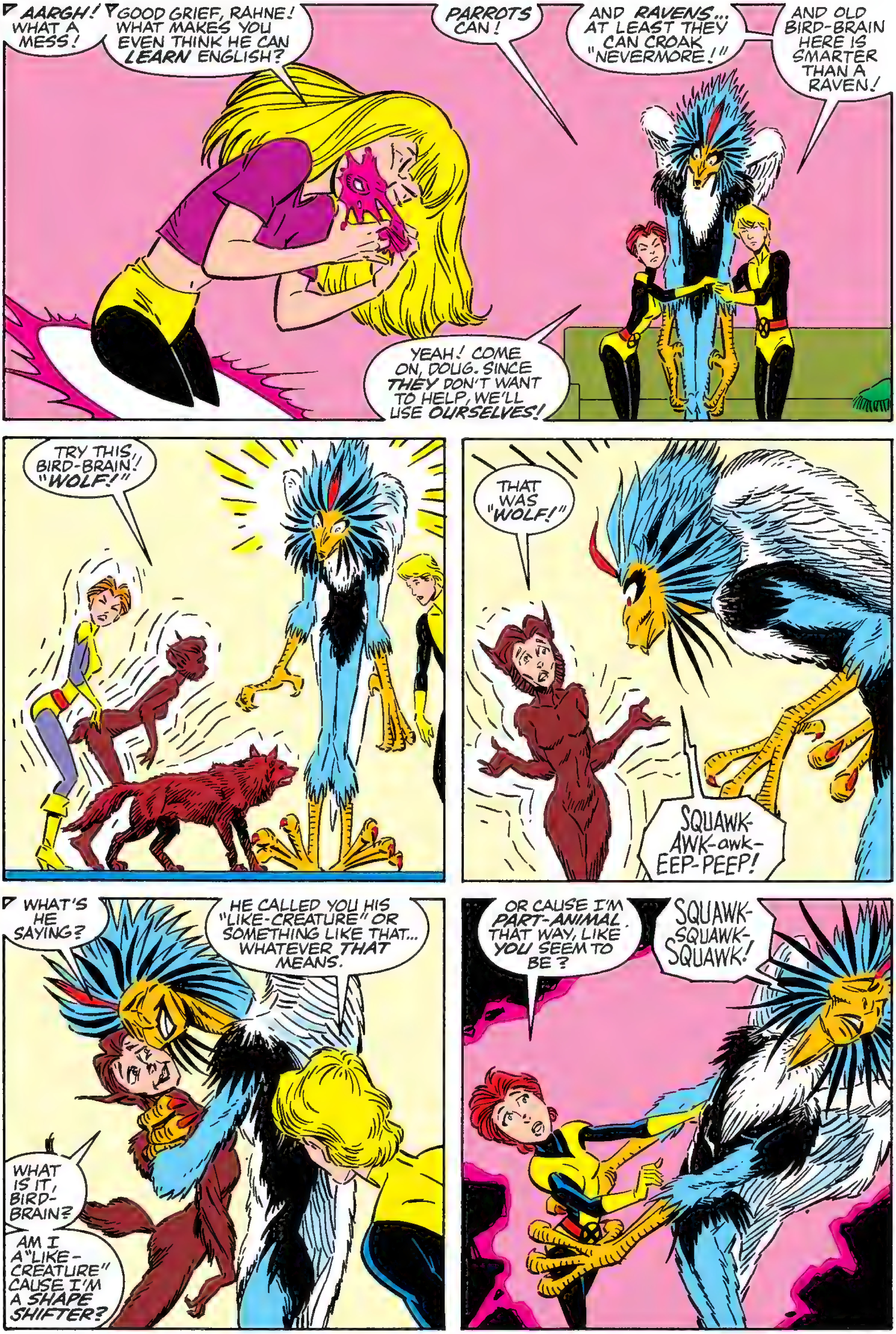
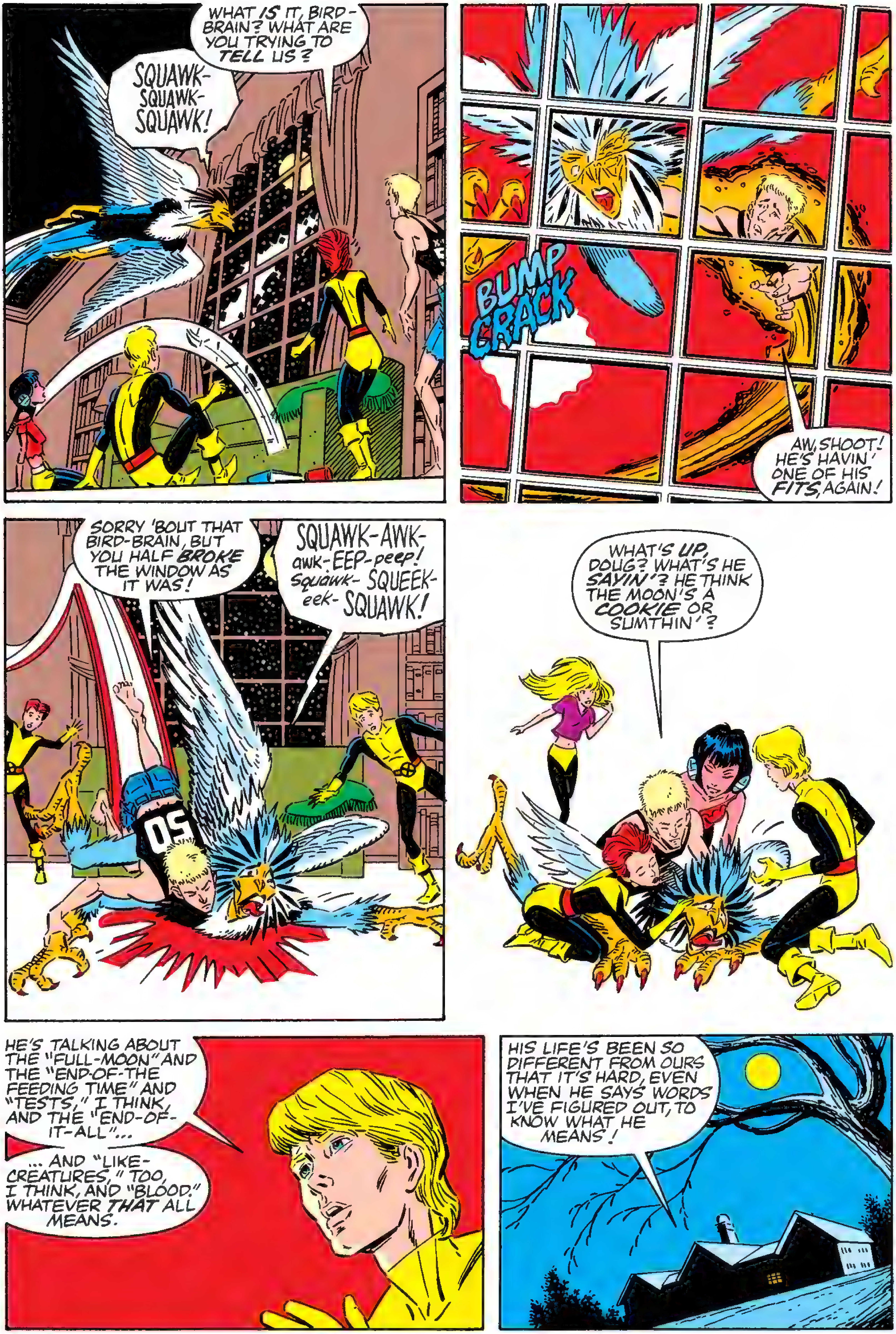
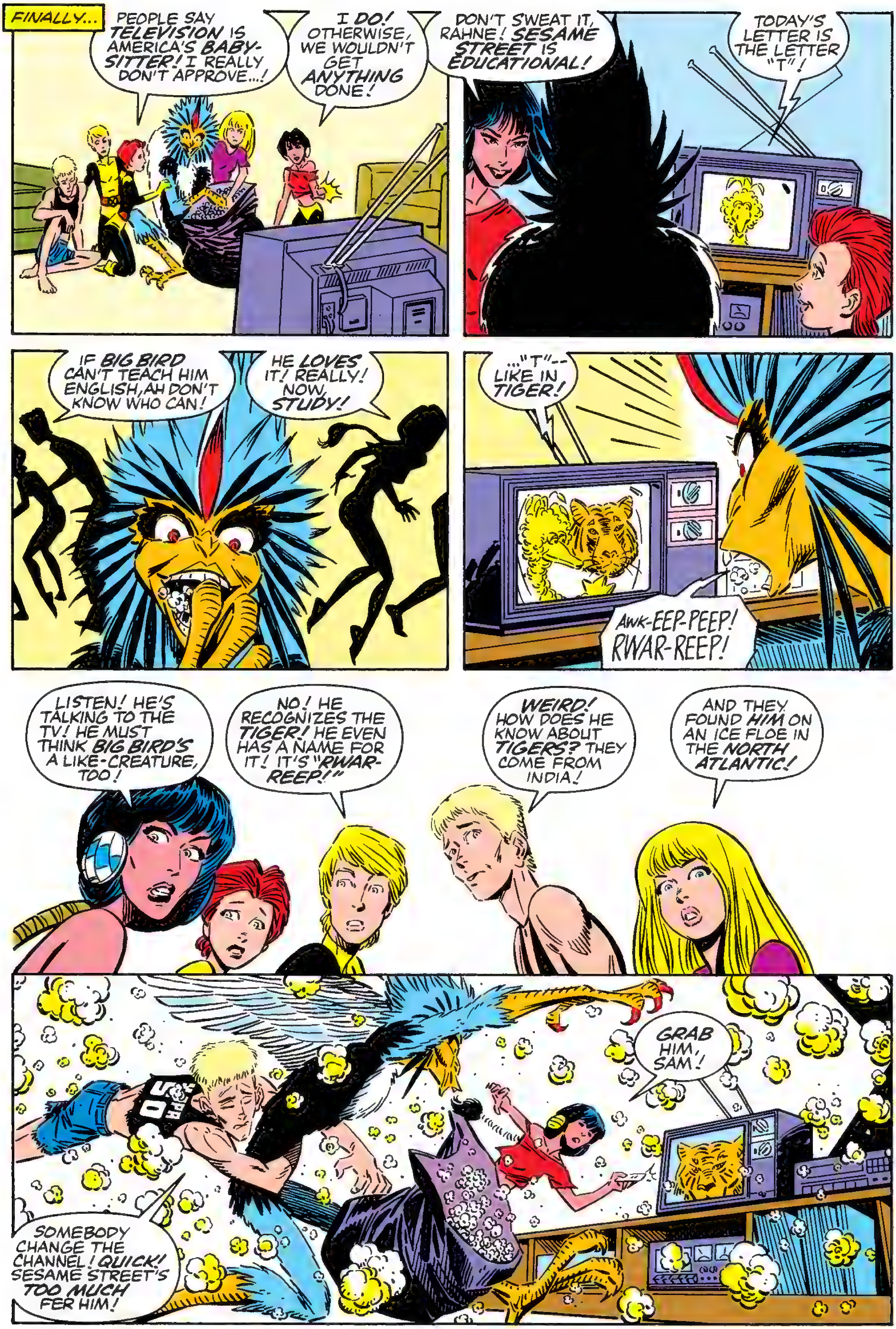
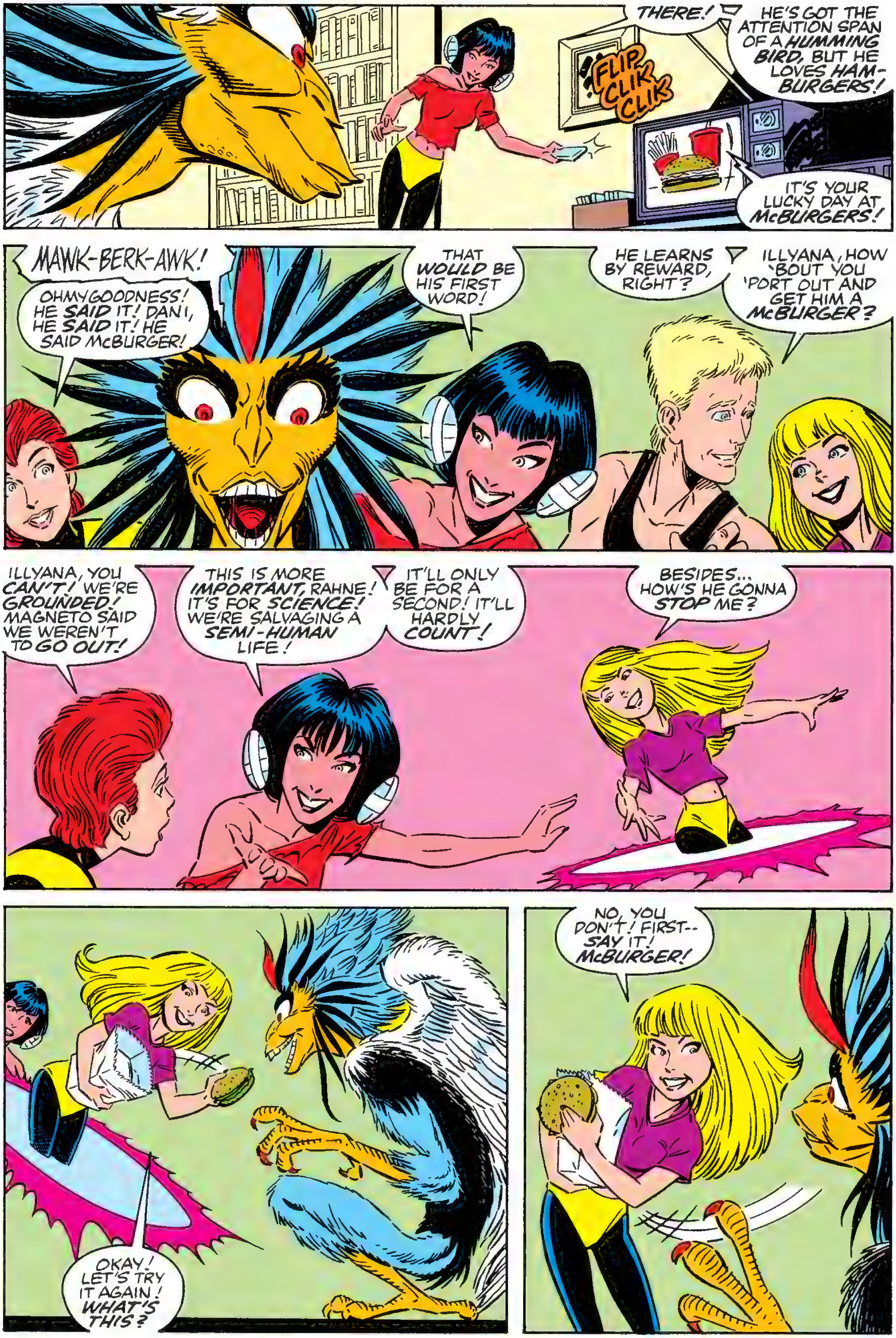

SQUAWK-AWK-SQUAKK!
GIVE IT UP, RAHNE AND DOUG! COME AND *STUDY!* WE GOT *MIDTERMS* COMIN' UP!
CALCULUS STINKS! AH'M NEVER GONNA REMEMBER THIS STINKIN' FORMULA!
SNATCH
WHAT'S *THAT?*
YOUR FORMULA, SAM... THE ONE YOU THINK YOU CAN'T REMEMBER.
$S_4=f(x_1)\Delta x+f(x_2)\Delta x+f(x_3)\Delta x+$
TRIG
IT'S IN YOUR HEAD... 'CAUSE I COULD ACCESS IT AND *PROJECT* IT FOR YOU! DON'T GET SO HYSTERICAL!
UH, DANI... AH DON'T S'POSE YOU CAN DO THAT ON THE *EXAM?*
GULP
NAH. MAGNETO'D THINK IT WAS CHEATING!
TEACHING HIM WITH *FOOD* DOESN'T WORK. ALL HE WANTS TO DO WHEN HE SEES FOOD IS *EAT* IT!
AND WHEN HE EATS, HE THINKS HE'S BEING *REWARDED* FOR DOING SOMETHING GOOD...
...ONLY HE DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING* GOOD, AT ALL!

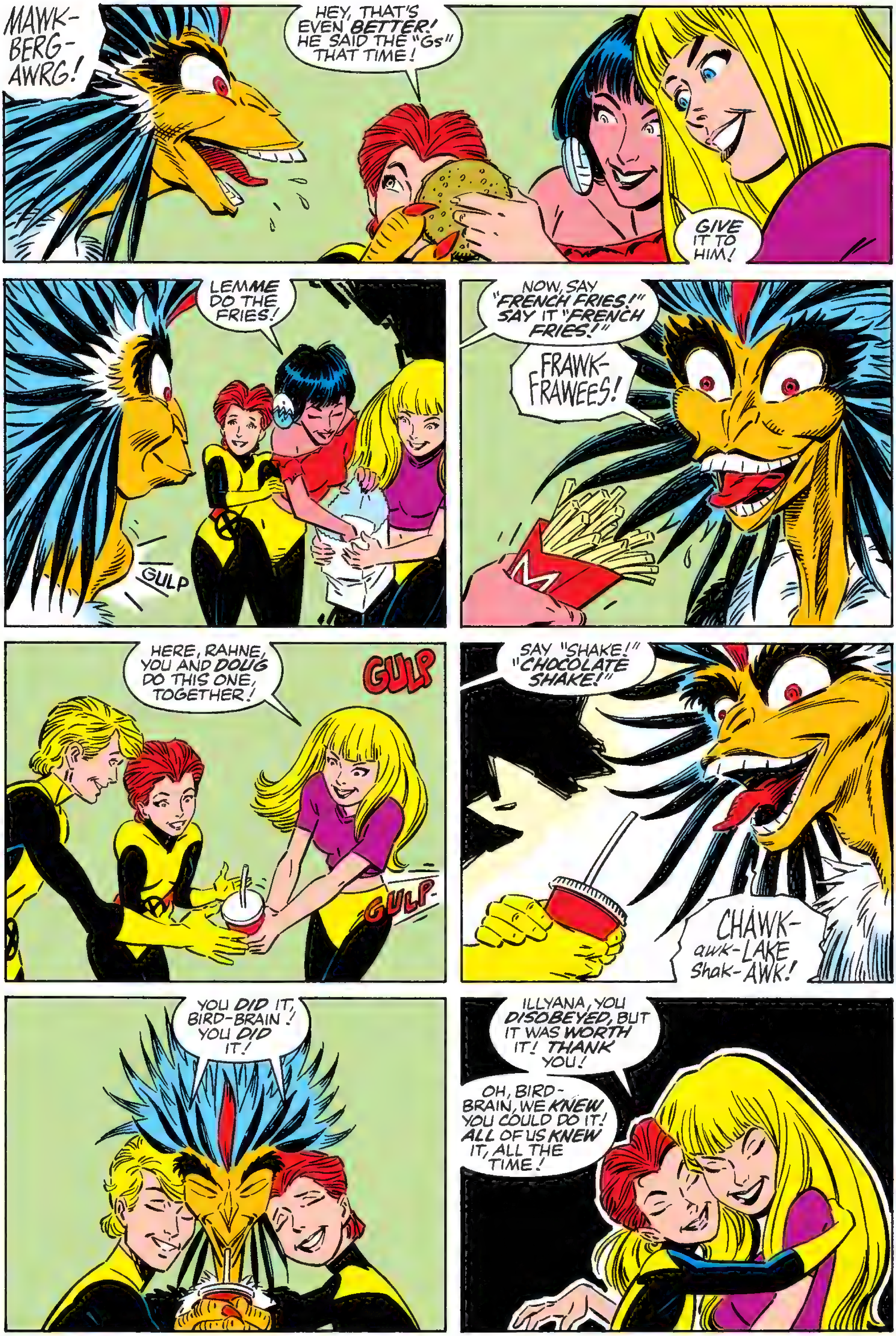

HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY! LET'S DO SOMETHING ELSE!
HEY!
SKRUNCH
CHIP
THIS IS ILLYANA'S HAIR, BIRD-BRAIN! SAY "HAIR!"
NO, HUH?
MIGHT AS WELL STUDY, RAHNE! NUTHIN' ELSE GOIN' ON!
TRY HAND, BIRD-BRAIN! SAY "HAND!"
LOOK, MAGNETO LET BIRD-BRAIN STAY HERE, BUT WE GOT GROUNDED!*
AND THIS TIME, HE SAID WE STAY GROUNDED 'LESS WE ACE THE DUMB EXAMS!
SO Y'ALL BETTER FORGET THAT DOPE AN' HIT THE BOOKS!
X-APA 50
MATH
*FOR LAST ISSUE'S DISASTER IN THE MALL--ANN.
BUBBLE! SAY "BUBBLE!"
FOOT, BIRD-BRAIN! FOOT!
POP
ENOUGH! CUT IT OUT!
LOOK, BIRD-BRAIN! SEE ILLYANA TELEPORT!
SAY "TELE-PORT!"

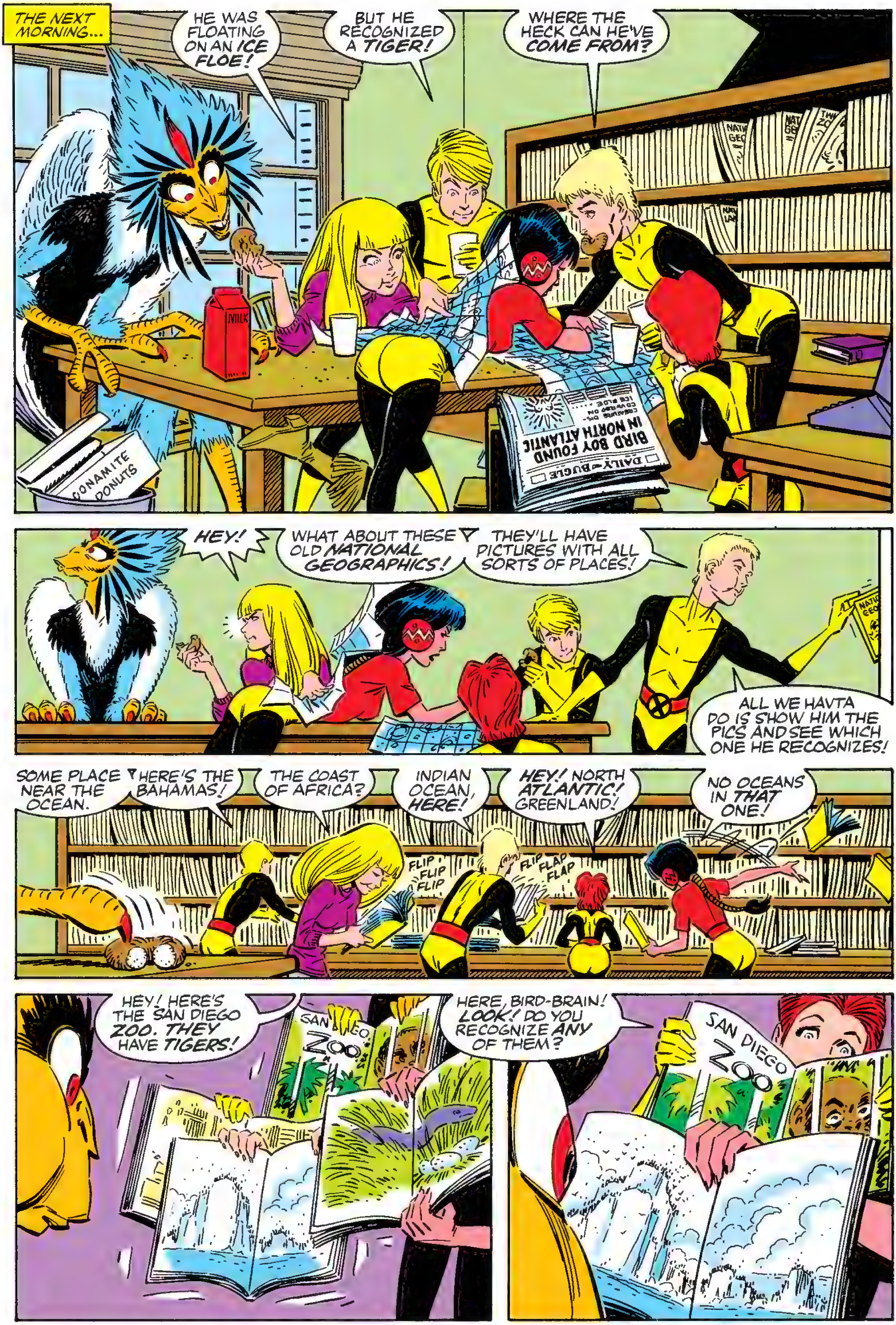

AARGH! WHAT A MESS!
GOOD GRIEF, RAHNE! WHAT MAKES YOU EVEN THINK HE CAN *LEARN* ENGLISH?
PARROTS CAN!
AND *RAVENS*... AT LEAST THEY CAN CROAK "NEVERMORE!"
AND OLD BIRD-BRAIN HERE IS SMARTER THAN A RAVEN!
YEAH! COME ON, DOUG. SINCE *THEY* DON'T WANT TO HELP, WE'LL USE *OURSELVES!*
TRY THIS, BIRD-BRAIN! "*WOLF!*"
THAT WAS "*WOLF!*"
SQUAWK-AWK-awk-EEP-PEEP!
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
HE CALLED YOU HIS "LIKE-CREATURE" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT... WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS.
WHAT IS IT, BIRD-BRAIN?
AM I A "LIKE-CREATURE" CAUSE I'M A *SHAPE SHIFTER?*
OR CAUSE I'M *PART-ANIMAL* THAT WAY, LIKE *YOU* SEEM TO BE?
SQUAWK-SQUAWK-SQUAWK!

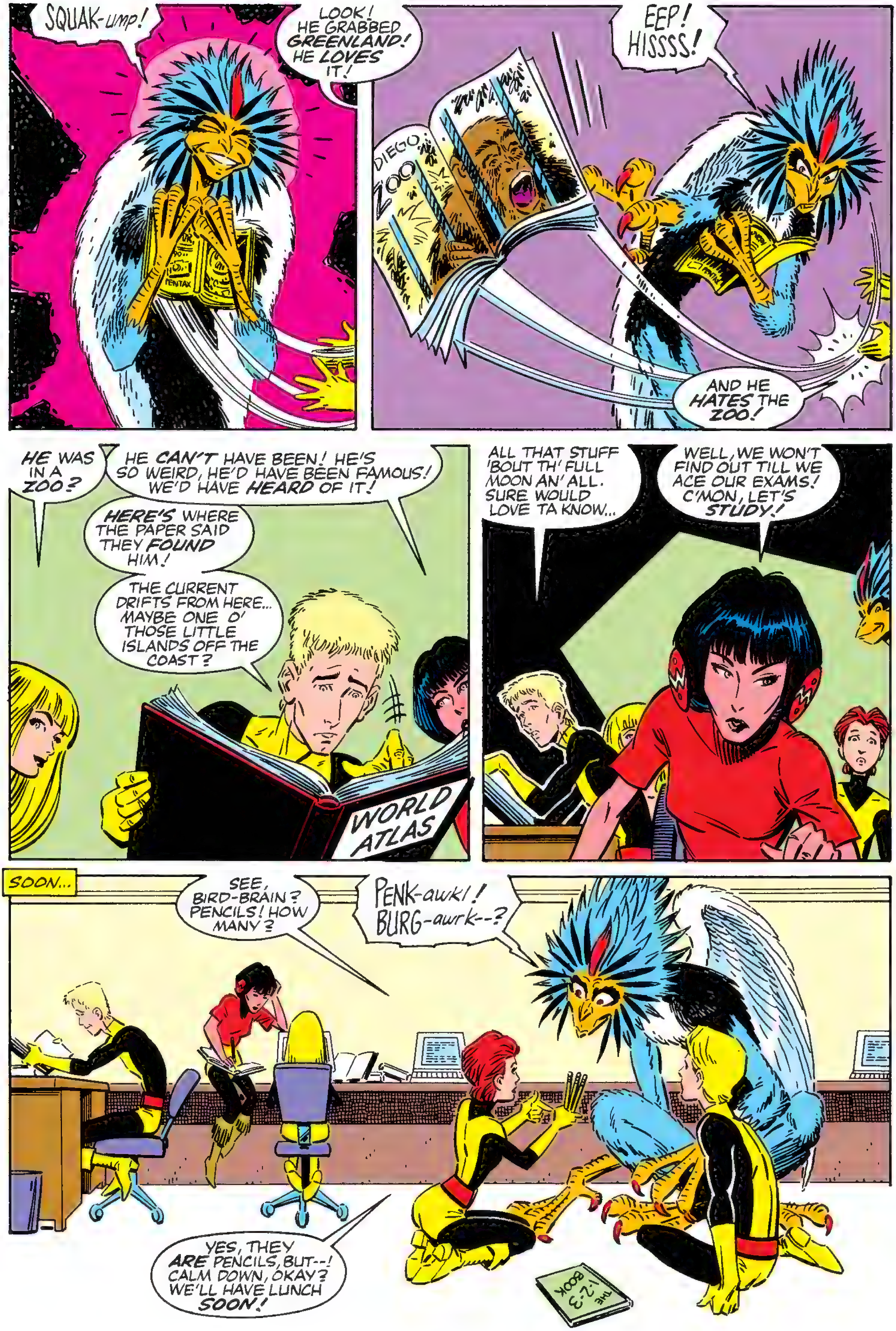

WHAT *IS* IT, BIRD-BRAIN? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO *TELL* US?
SQUAWK-SQUAWK-SQUAWK!
BUMP
CRACK
AW, SHOOT! HE'S HAVIN' ONE OF HIS *FITS*, AGAIN!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT BIRD-BRAIN, BUT YOU HALF *BROKE* THE WINDOW AS IT WAS!
SQUAWK-AWK-awk-EEP-peep! Squawk-SQUEEK-eek-SQUAWK!
50
WHAT'S *UP*, DOUG? WHAT'S HE *SAYIN'*? HE THINK THE MOON'S A *COOKIE* OR SUMTHIN'?
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE "FULL-MOON" AND THE "END-OF-THE FEEDING TIME" AND "TESTS," I THINK, AND THE "END-OF-IT-ALL"...
... AND "LIKE-CREATURES," TOO, I THINK, AND "BLOOD." WHATEVER *THAT* ALL MEANS.
HIS LIFE'S BEEN SO DIFFERENT FROM OURS THAT IT'S HARD, EVEN WHEN HE SAYS WORDS I'VE FIGURED OUT, TO KNOW WHAT HE MEANS!

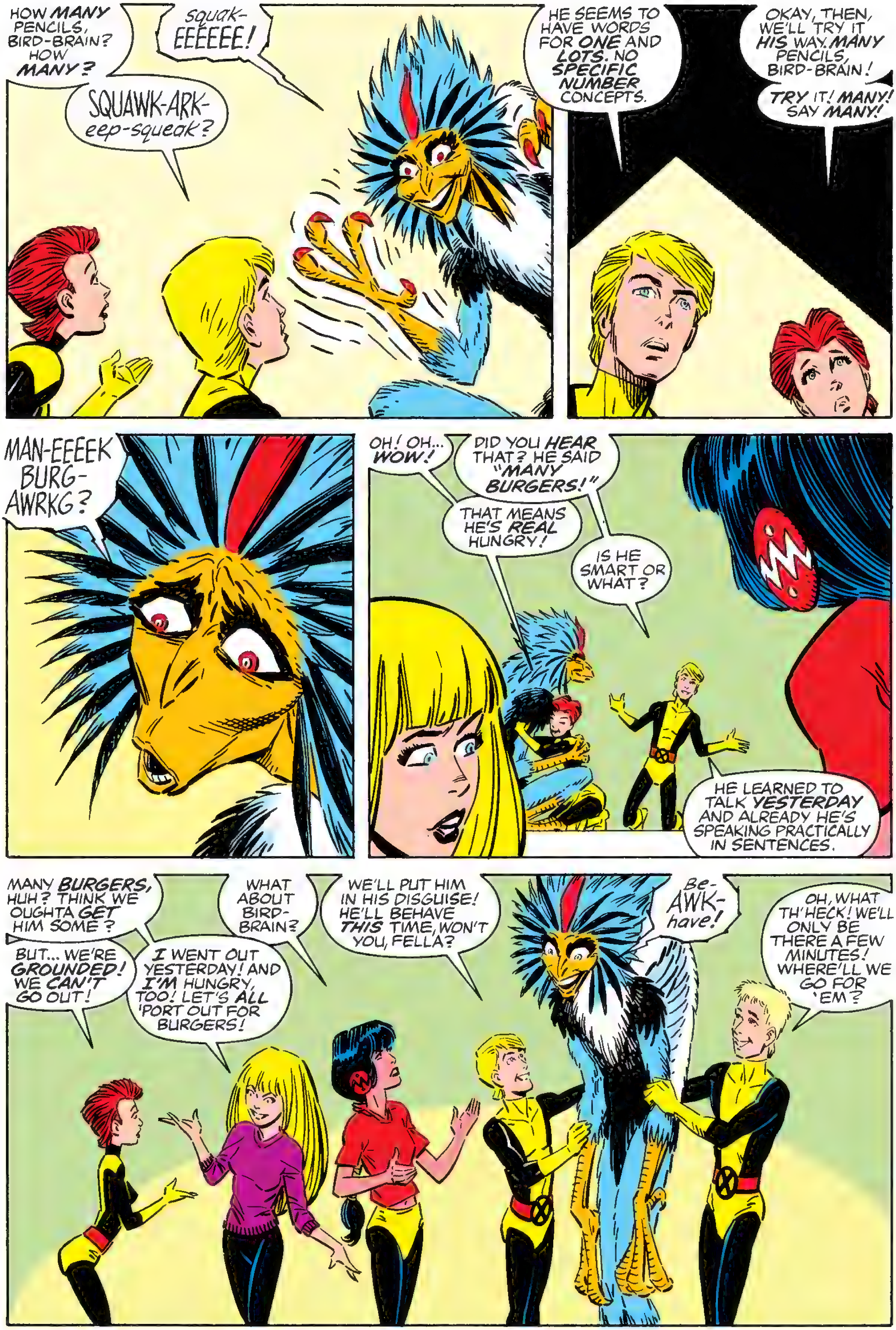

FINALLY...
PEOPLE SAY TELEVISION IS AMERICA'S BABY-SITTER! I REALLY DON'T APPROVE...!
I DO! OTHERWISE, WE WOULDN'T GET ANYTHING DONE!
DON'T SWEAT IT, RAHNE! SESAME STREET IS EDUCATIONAL!
TODAY'S LETTER IS THE LETTER "T"!
IF BIG BIRD CAN'T TEACH HIM ENGLISH, AH DON'T KNOW WHO CAN!
HE LOVES IT! REALLY! NOW, STUDY!
..."T"-- LIKE IN TIGER!
AWK-EEP-PEEP! RWAR-REEP!
LISTEN! HE'S TALKING TO THE TV! HE MUST THINK BIG BIRD'S A LIKE-CREATURE, TOO!
NO! HE RECOGNIZES THE TIGER! HE EVEN HAS A NAME FOR IT! IT'S "RWAR-REEP!"
WEIRD! HOW DOES HE KNOW ABOUT TIGERS? THEY COME FROM INDIA!
AND THEY FOUND HIM ON AN ICE FLOE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC!
GRAB HIM, SAM!
SOMEBODY CHANGE THE CHANNEL! QUICK! SESAME STREET'S TOO MUCH FER HIM!

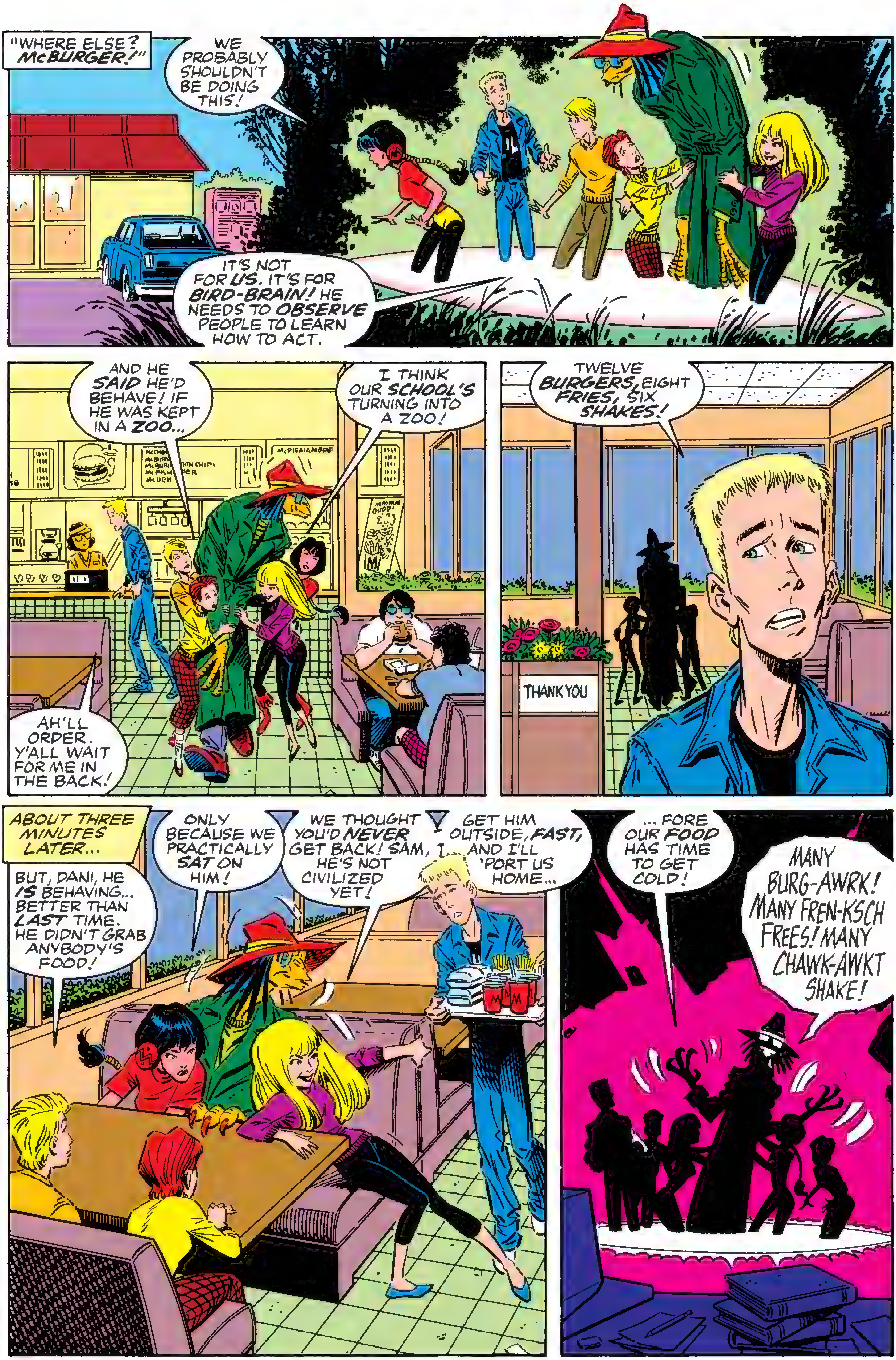

THERE!
FLIP CLIK CLIK
HE'S GOT THE ATTENTION SPAN OF A HUMMING BIRD, BUT HE LOVES HAMBURGERS!
IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY AT McBURGERS!
MAWK-BERK-AWK!
OHMYGOODNESS! HE SAID IT! DANI, HE SAID IT! HE SAID McBURGER!
THAT WOULD BE HIS FIRST WORD!
HE LEARNS BY REWARD, RIGHT?
ILLYANA, HOW 'BOUT YOU 'PORT OUT AND GET HIM A McBURGER?
ILLYANA, YOU CAN'T! WE'RE GROUNDED! MAGNETO SAID WE WEREN'T TO GO OUT!
THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT, RAHNE! IT'S FOR SCIENCE! WE'RE SALVAGING A SEMI-HUMAN LIFE!
IT'LL ONLY BE FOR A SECOND! IT'LL HARDLY COUNT!
BESIDES... HOW'S HE GONNA STOP ME?
OKAY! LET'S TRY IT AGAIN! WHAT'S THIS?
NO, YOU DON'T! FIRST-- SAY IT! McBURGER!

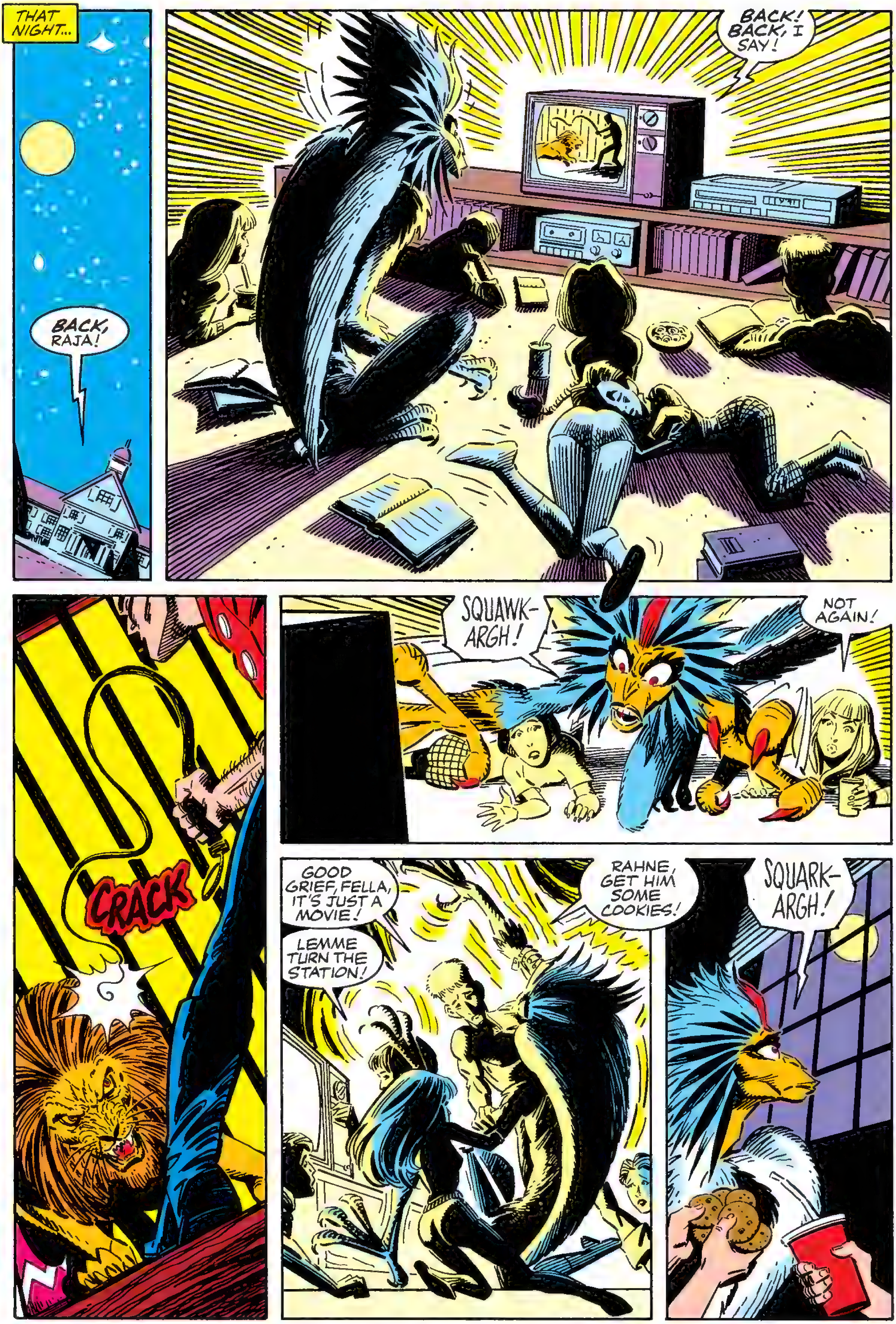

MAWK-BERG-AWRG!
HEY, THAT'S EVEN BETTER! HE SAID THE "Gs" THAT TIME!
GIVE IT TO HIM!
LEMME DO THE FRIES!
GULP
NOW, SAY "FRENCH FRIES!" SAY IT "FRENCH FRIES!"
FRAWK-FRAWEES!
HERE, RAHNE, YOU AND DOUG DO THIS ONE, TOGETHER!
GULP
GULP
SAY "SHAKE!" "CHOCOLATE SHAKE!"
CHAWK-awk-LAKE Shak-AWK!
YOU DID IT, BIRD-BRAIN! YOU DID IT!
ILLYANA, YOU DISOBEYED, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! THANK YOU!
OH, BIRD-BRAIN, WE KNEW YOU COULD DO IT! ALL OF US KNEW IT, ALL THE TIME!

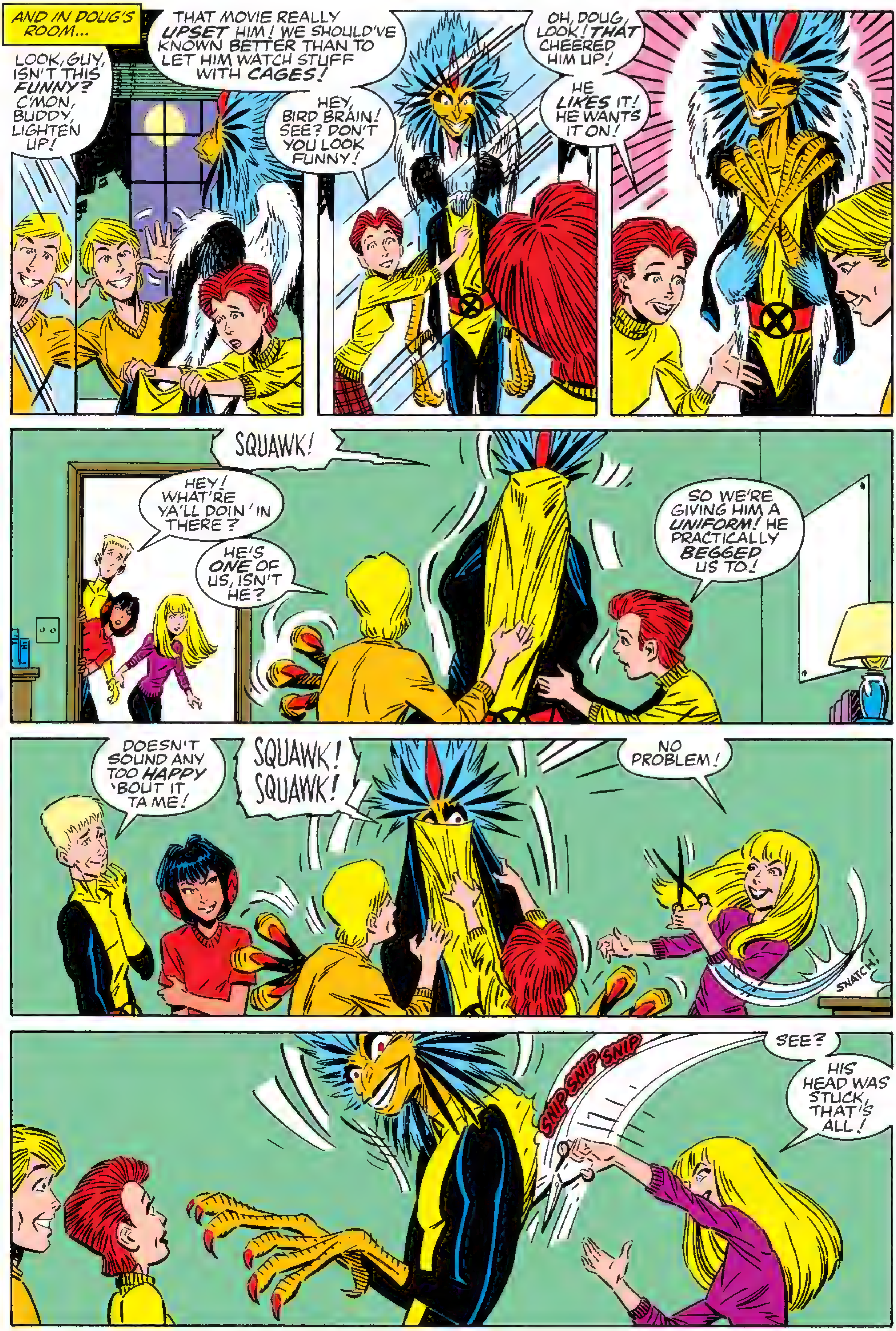

THE NEXT MORNING...
HE WAS FLOATING ON AN ICE FLOE!
BUT HE RECOGNIZED A TIGER!
WHERE THE HECK CAN HE'VE COME FROM?
MILK
DYNAMITE DONUTS
DAILY BUGLE
BIRD BOY FOUND IN NORTH ATLANTIC
CREATURE DIS-COVERED ON ICE FLOE
HEY!
WHAT ABOUT THESE OLD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS!
THEY'LL HAVE PICTURES WITH ALL SORTS OF PLACES!
ALL WE HAVTA DO IS SHOW HIM THE PICS AND SEE WHICH ONE HE RECOGNIZES!
SOME PLACE NEAR THE OCEAN.
HERE'S THE BAHAMAS!
THE COAST OF AFRICA?
INDIAN OCEAN, HERE!
HEY! NORTH ATLANTIC! GREENLAND!
NO OCEANS IN THAT ONE!
FLIP FLIP FLIP
FLIP FLAP FLAP
HEY! HERE'S THE SAN DIEGO ZOO. THEY HAVE TIGERS!
SAN DIEGO ZOO
HERE, BIRD-BRAIN! LOOK! DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM?
SAN DIEGO ZOO

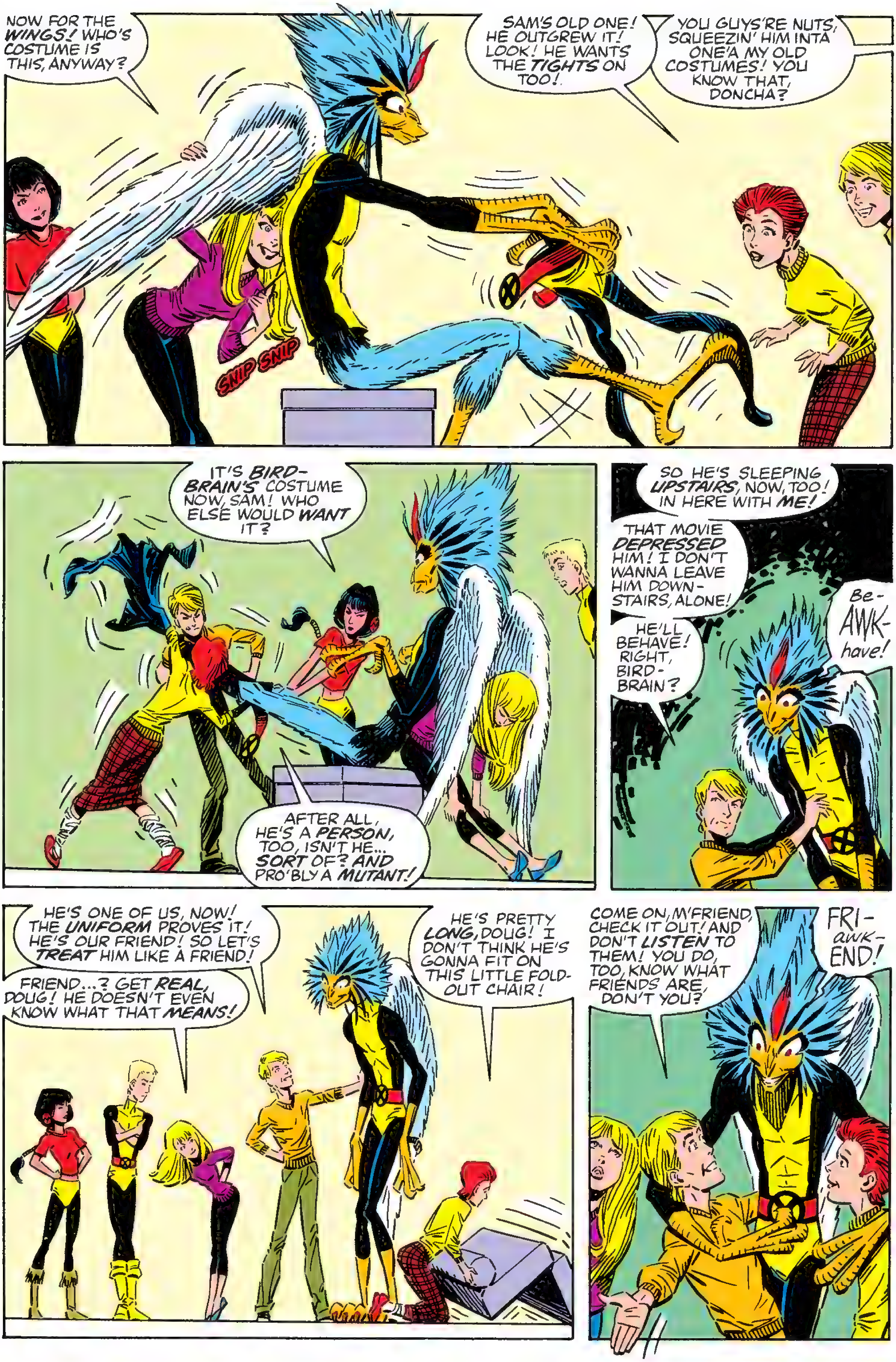

SQUAK-ump!
LOOK! HE GRABBED *GREENLAND!* HE *LOVES* IT!
PENTAX
EEP! HISSSS!
DIEGO ZOO
AND HE *HATES* THE *ZOO!*
HE WAS IN A *ZOO?*
HE *CAN'T* HAVE BEEN! HE'S SO WEIRD, HE'D HAVE BEEN FAMOUS! WE'D HAVE *HEARD* OF IT!
HERE'S WHERE THE PAPER SAID THEY *FOUND* HIM!
THE CURRENT DRIFTS FROM HERE... MAYBE ONE O' THOSE LITTLE ISLANDS OFF THE COAST?
WORLD ATLAS
ALL THAT STUFF 'BOUT TH' FULL MOON AN' ALL. SURE WOULD LOVE TA KNOW...
WELL, WE WON'T FIND OUT TILL WE ACE OUR EXAMS! C'MON, LET'S *STUDY!*
SOON...
SEE, BIRD-BRAIN? PENCILS! HOW MANY?
PENK-awk! BURG-awrk--?
YES, THEY *ARE* PENCILS, BUT--! CALM DOWN, OKAY? WE'LL HAVE LUNCH *SOON!*
THE 1-2-3 BOOK

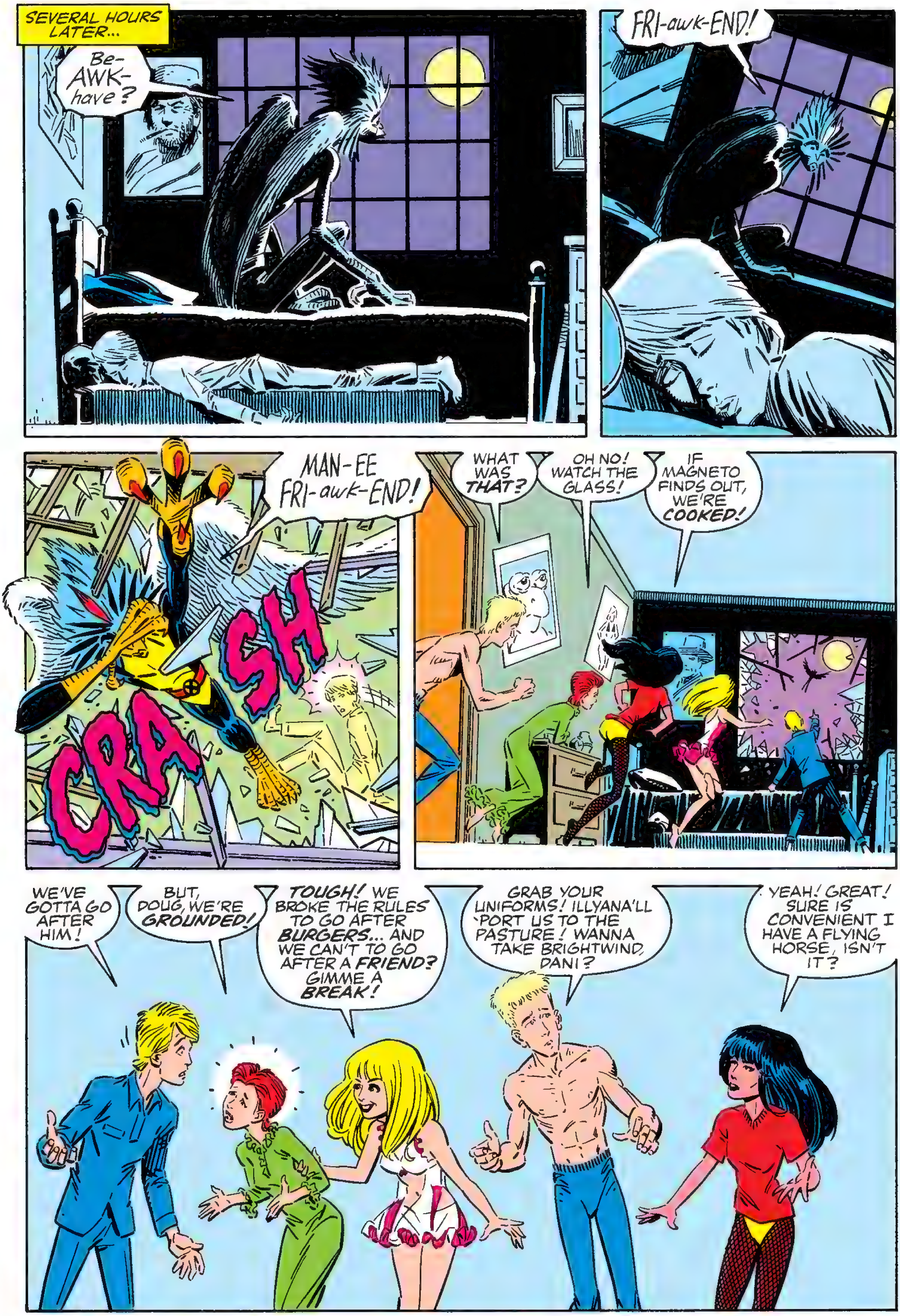

HOW MANY PENCILS, BIRD-BRAIN? HOW MANY?
squak-EEEEEE!
SQUAWK-ARK-eep-squeak?
HE SEEMS TO HAVE WORDS FOR ONE AND LOTS. NO SPECIFIC NUMBER CONCEPTS.
OKAY, THEN, WE'LL TRY IT HIS WAY. MANY PENCILS, BIRD-BRAIN!
TRY IT! MANY! SAY MANY!
MAN-EEEEK BURG-AWRKG?
OH! OH... WOW!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE SAID "MANY BURGERS!"
THAT MEANS HE'S REAL HUNGRY!
IS HE SMART OR WHAT?
HE LEARNED TO TALK YESTERDAY AND ALREADY HE'S SPEAKING PRACTICALLY IN SENTENCES.
MANY BURGERS, HUH? THINK WE OUGHTA GET HIM SOME?
BUT... WE'RE GROUNDED! WE CAN'T GO OUT!
WHAT ABOUT BIRD-BRAIN?
I WENT OUT YESTERDAY! AND I'M HUNGRY, TOO! LET'S ALL 'PORT OUT FOR BURGERS!
WE'LL PUT HIM IN HIS DISGUISE! HE'LL BEHAVE THIS TIME, WON'T YOU, FELLA?
Be-AWK-have!
OH, WHAT TH'HECK! WE'LL ONLY BE THERE A FEW MINUTES! WHERE'LL WE GO FOR 'EM?

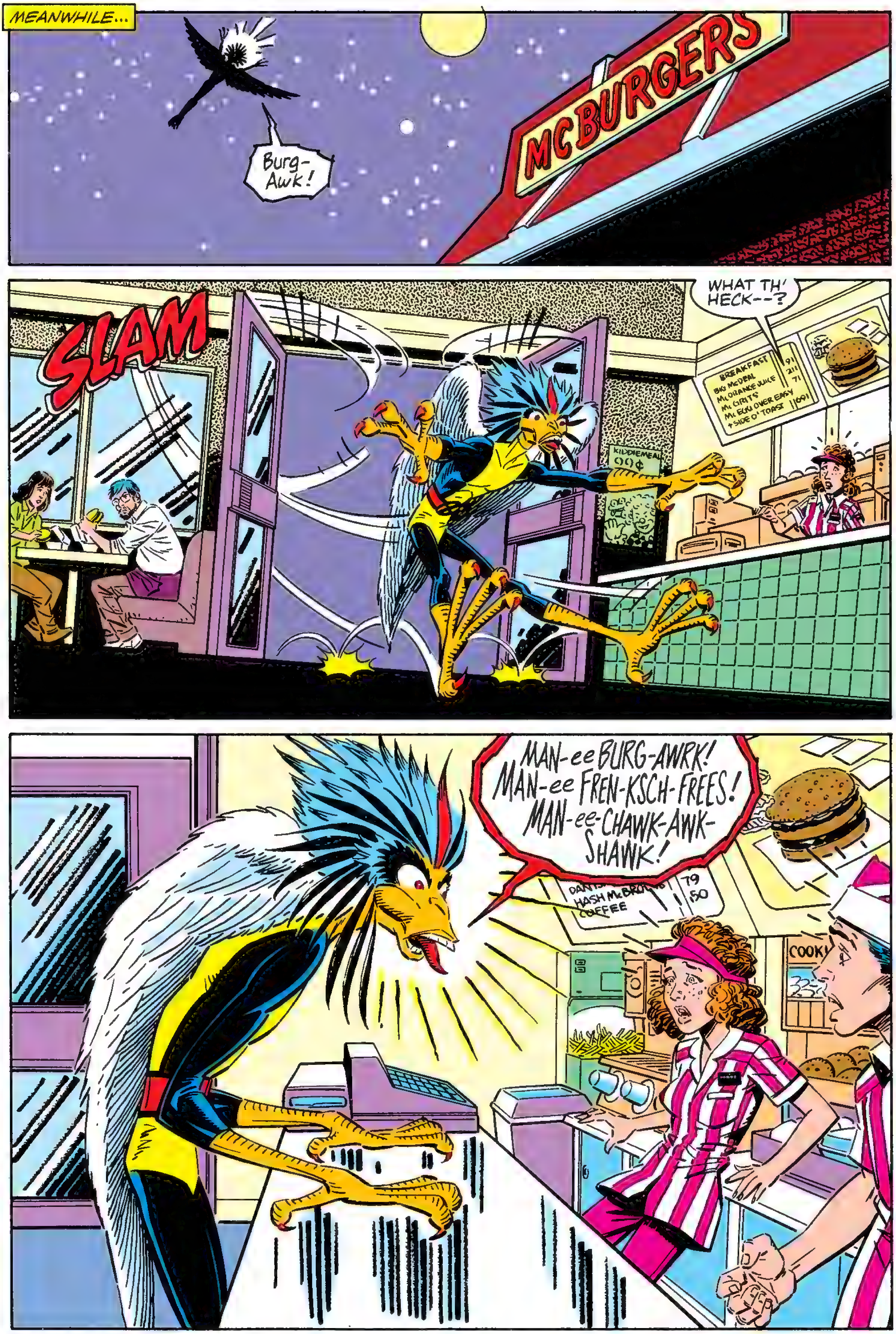

"WHERE ELSE? McBURGER!"
WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS!
IT'S NOT FOR US. IT'S FOR BIRD-BRAIN! HE NEEDS TO OBSERVE PEOPLE TO LEARN HOW TO ACT.
AND HE SAID HE'D BEHAVE! IF HE WAS KEPT IN A ZOO...
I THINK OUR SCHOOL'S TURNING INTO A ZOO!
AH'LL ORDER. Y'ALL WAIT FOR ME IN THE BACK!
TWELVE BURGERS, EIGHT FRIES, SIX SHAKES!
THANK YOU
ABOUT THREE MINUTES LATER...
BUT, DANI, HE IS BEHAVING... BETTER THAN LAST TIME. HE DIDN'T GRAB ANYBODY'S FOOD!
ONLY BECAUSE WE PRACTICALLY SAT ON HIM!
WE THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET BACK! SAM, HE'S NOT CIVILIZED YET!
GET HIM OUTSIDE, FAST, AND I'LL 'PORT US HOME...
... FORE OUR FOOD HAS TIME TO GET COLD!
MANY BURG-AWRK! MANY FREN-KSCH FREES! MANY CHAWK-AWKT SHAKE!

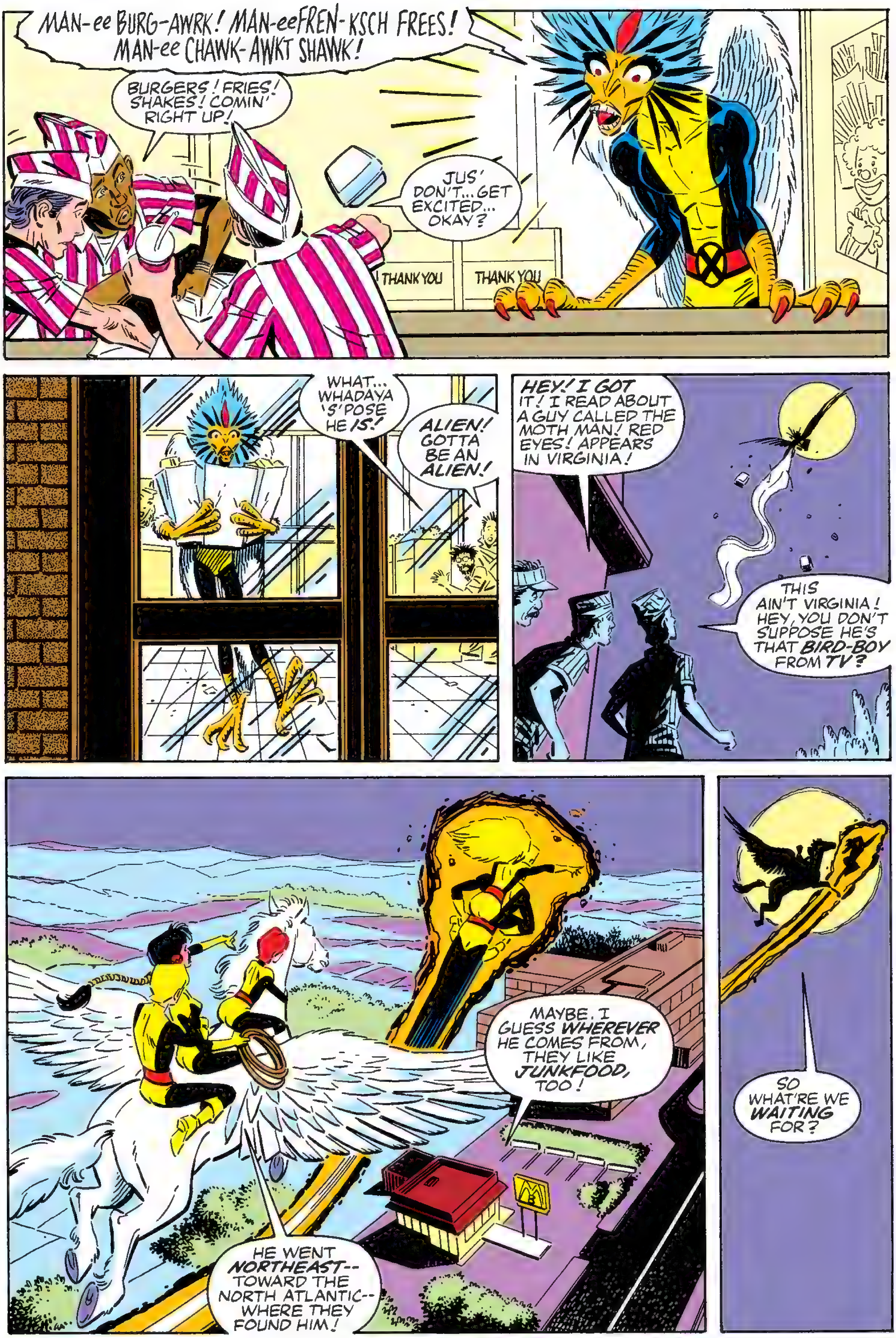

THAT NIGHT...
BACK, RAJA!
BACK! BACK, I SAY!
CRACK
SQUAWK-ARGH!
NOT AGAIN!
GOOD GRIEF, FELLA, IT'S JUST A MOVIE!
LEMME TURN THE STATION!
RAHNE, GET HIM SOME COOKIES!
SQUARK-ARGH!

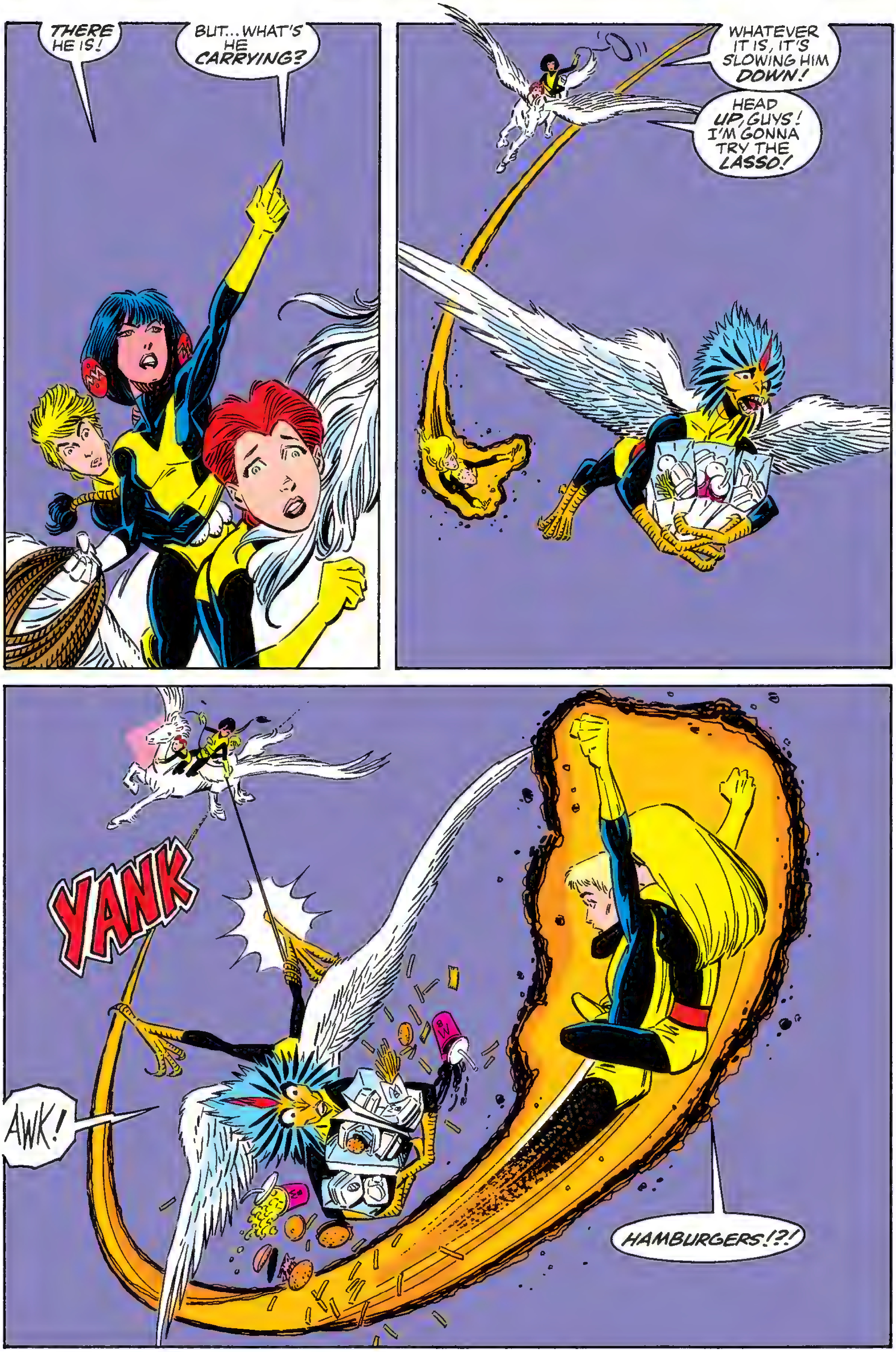

AND IN DOUG'S ROOM...
LOOK, GUY, ISN'T THIS FUNNY? C'MON, BUDDY, LIGHTEN UP!
THAT MOVIE REALLY UPSET HIM! WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET HIM WATCH STUFF WITH CAGES!
HEY, BIRD BRAIN! SEE? DON'T YOU LOOK FUNNY!
OH, DOUG, LOOK! THAT CHEERED HIM UP!
HE LIKES IT! HE WANTS IT ON!
SQUAWK!
HEY! WHAT'RE YA'LL DOIN' IN THERE?
HE'S ONE OF US, ISN'T HE?
SO WE'RE GIVING HIM A UNIFORM! HE PRACTICALLY BEGGED US TO!
DOESN'T SOUND ANY TOO HAPPY 'BOUT IT TA ME!
SQUAWK! SQUAWK!
NO PROBLEM!
SNATCH!
SNIP SNIP SNIP
SEE?
HIS HEAD WAS STUCK, THAT'S ALL!

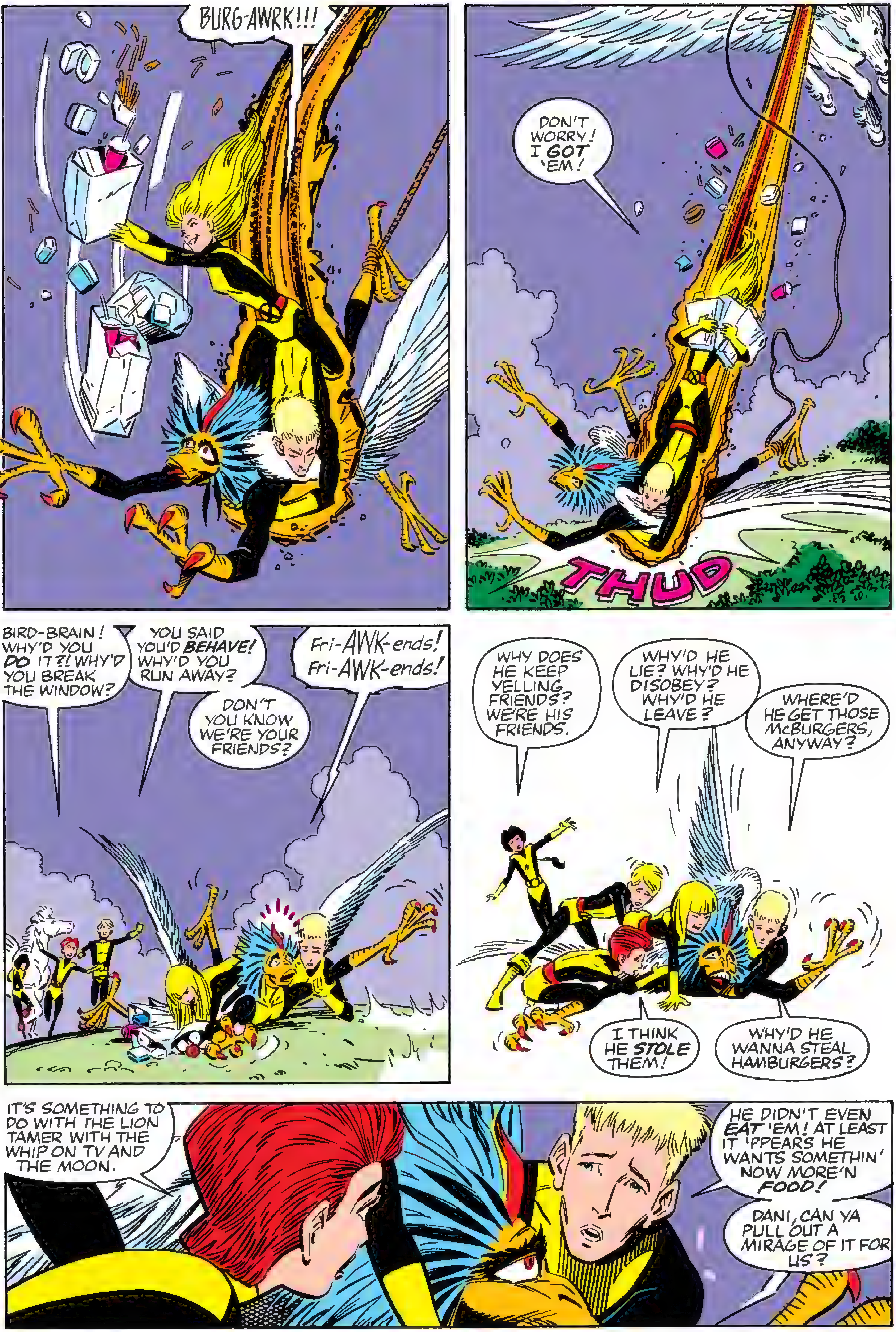

NOW FOR THE *WINGS!* WHO'S COSTUME IS THIS, ANYWAY?
SAM'S OLD ONE! HE OUTGREW IT! LOOK! HE WANTS THE *TIGHTS* ON TOO!
YOU GUYS'RE NUTS, SQUEEZIN' HIM INTA ONE'A MY OLD COSTUMES! YOU KNOW THAT, DONCHA?
SNIP SNIP
IT'S *BIRD-BRAIN'S* COSTUME NOW, SAM! WHO ELSE WOULD *WANT* IT?
AFTER ALL, HE'S A *PERSON*, TOO, ISN'T HE... *SORT* OF? *AND* PRO'BLY A *MUTANT!*
SO HE'S SLEEPING *UPSTAIRS*, NOW, TOO! IN HERE WITH *ME!*
THAT MOVIE *DEPRESSED* HIM! I DON'T WANNA LEAVE HIM DOWNSTAIRS, ALONE!
HE'LL BEHAVE! RIGHT, BIRD-BRAIN?
Be-AWK-have!
HE'S ONE OF US, NOW! THE *UNIFORM* PROVES IT! HE'S OUR FRIEND! SO LET'S *TREAT* HIM LIKE A FRIEND!
FRIEND...? GET *REAL*, DOUG! HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT *MEANS!*
HE'S PRETTY *LONG*, DOUG! I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA FIT ON THIS LITTLE FOLD-OUT CHAIR!
COME ON, M'FRIEND, CHECK IT OUT! AND DON'T *LISTEN* TO THEM! YOU DO, TOO, KNOW WHAT FRIENDS ARE, DON'T YOU?
FRI-awk-END!

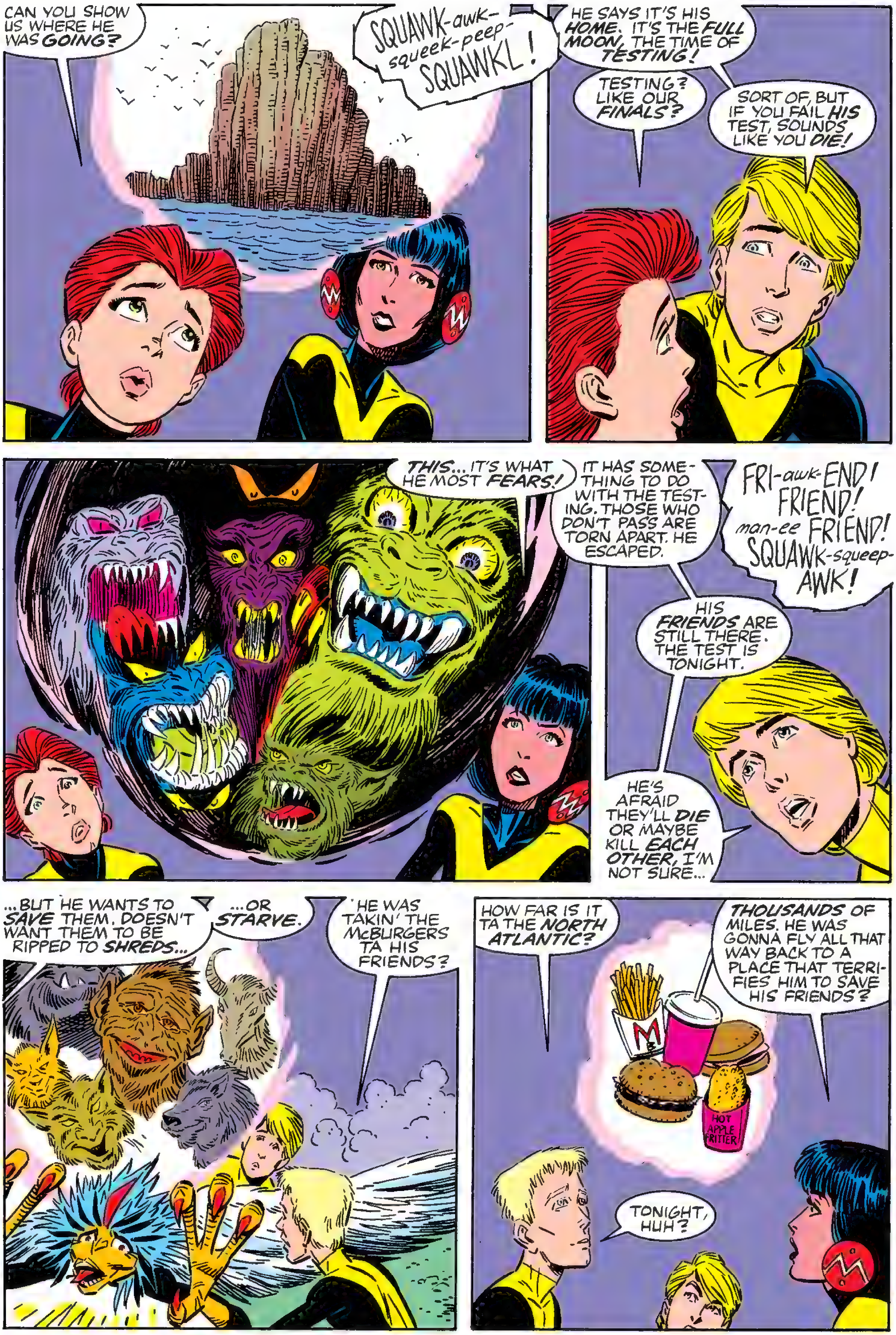

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
Be-AWK-have?
FRI-awk-END!
MAN-EE FRI-awk-END!
CRASH
WHAT WAS THAT?
OH NO! WATCH THE GLASS!
IF MAGNETO FINDS OUT, WE'RE COOKED!
WE'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM!
BUT, DOUG, WE'RE GROUNDED!
TOUGH! WE BROKE THE RULES TO GO AFTER BURGERS... AND WE CAN'T TO GO AFTER A FRIEND? GIMME A BREAK!
GRAB YOUR UNIFORMS! ILLYANA'LL 'PORT US TO THE PASTURE! WANNA TAKE BRIGHTWIND, DANI?
YEAH! GREAT! SURE IS CONVENIENT I HAVE A FLYING HORSE, ISN'T IT?

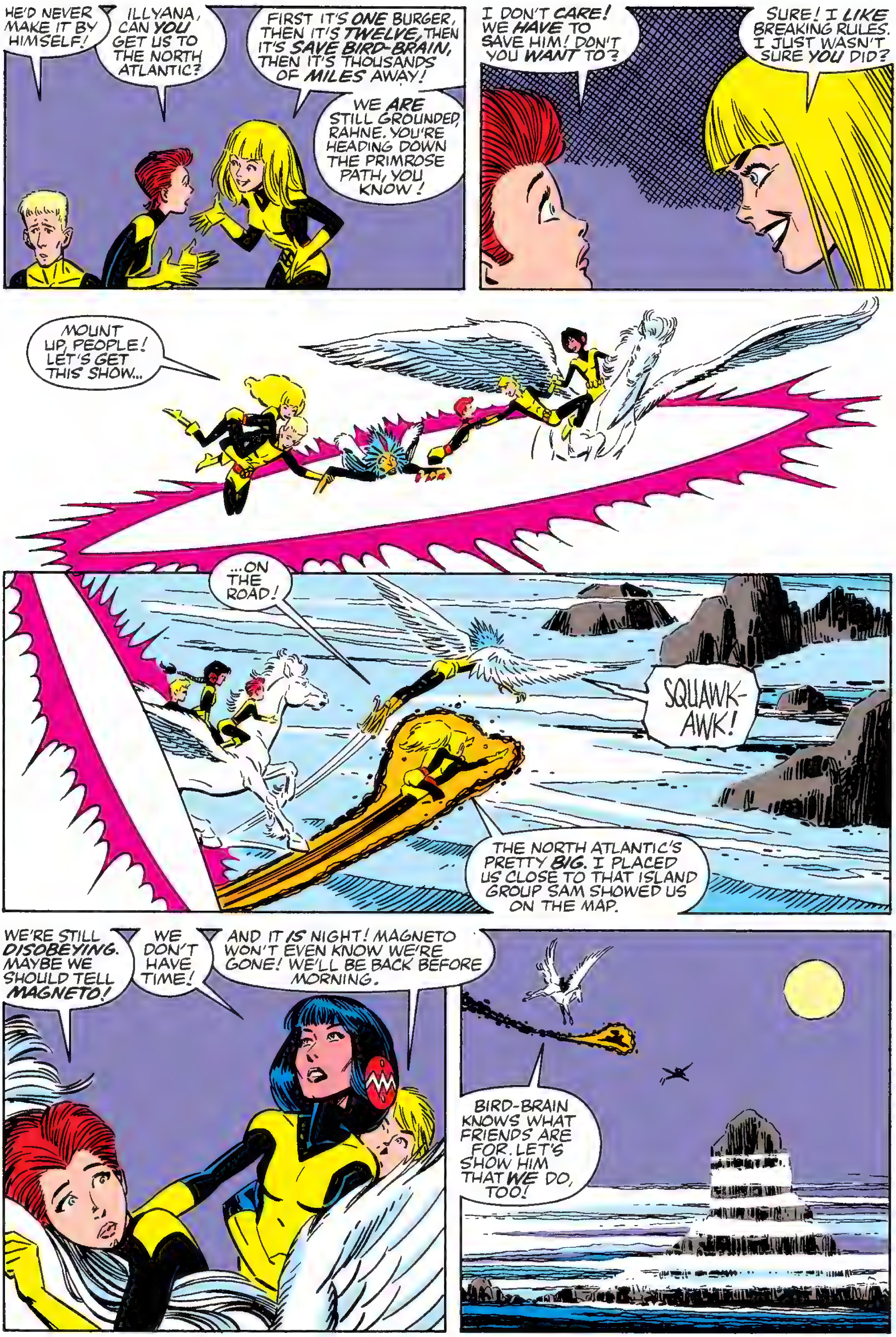

MEANWHILE...
Burg-Awk!
McBURGERS
SLAM
WHAT TH' HECK--?
BREAKFAST
BIG McDEAL 91
McORANGE JUICE 21
McGRITS 71
McEGG OVER EASY
+SIDE O' TOAST 691
KIDDIEMEAL 99¢
MAN-ee BURG-AWRK! MAN-ee FREN-KSCH-FREES! MAN-ee-CHAWK-AWK-SHAWK!
HASH McBR
COFFEE
79
.50
COOK

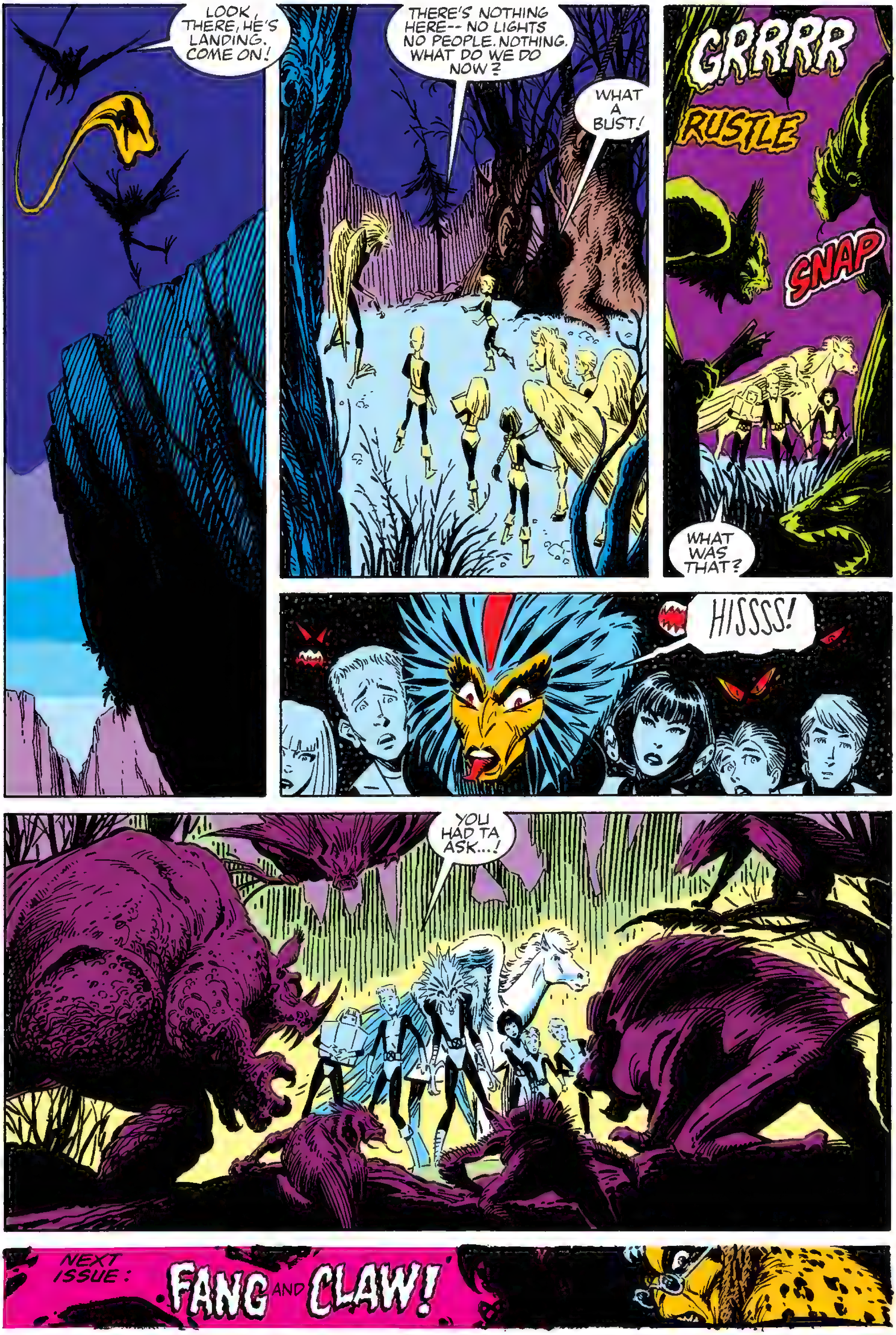

MAN-ee BURG-AWRK! MAN-ee FREN-KSCH FREES! MAN-ee CHAWK-AWKT SHAWK!
BURGERS! FRIES! SHAKES! COMIN' RIGHT UP!
JUS' DON'T...GET EXCITED... OKAY?
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
WHAT... WHADAYA 'S'POSE HE *IS!*
ALIEN! GOTTA BE AN *ALIEN!*
HEY! I GOT IT! I READ ABOUT A GUY CALLED THE MOTH MAN! RED EYES! APPEARS IN VIRGINIA!
THIS AIN'T VIRGINIA! HEY, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE HE'S THAT *BIRD-BOY* FROM *TV?*
MAYBE. I GUESS *WHEREVER* HE COMES FROM, THEY LIKE *JUNKFOOD,* TOO!
HE WENT *NORTHEAST*-- TOWARD THE NORTH ATLANTIC-- WHERE THEY FOUND HIM!
SO WHAT'RE WE *WAITING* FOR?


THERE HE IS!
BUT... WHAT'S HE CARRYING?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S SLOWING HIM DOWN!
HEAD UP, GUYS! I'M GONNA TRY THE LASSO!
YANK
AWK!
HAMBURGERS!?!


BURG-AWRK!!!
DON'T WORRY! I GOT 'EM!
THUD
BIRD-BRAIN! WHY'D YOU DO IT?! WHY'D YOU BREAK THE WINDOW?
YOU SAID YOU'D BEHAVE! WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?
DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS?
Fri-AWK-ends! Fri-AWK-ends!
WHY DOES HE KEEP YELLING FRIENDS? WE'RE HIS FRIENDS.
WHY'D HE LIE? WHY'D HE DISOBEY? WHY'D HE LEAVE?
WHERE'D HE GET THOSE McBURGERS, ANYWAY?
I THINK HE STOLE THEM!
WHY'D HE WANNA STEAL HAMBURGERS?
IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LION TAMER WITH THE WHIP ON TV AND THE MOON.
HE DIDN'T EVEN EAT 'EM! AT LEAST IT 'PPEARS HE WANTS SOMETHIN' NOW MORE'N FOOD!
DANI, CAN YA PULL OUT A MIRAGE OF IT FOR US?


CAN YOU SHOW US WHERE HE WAS GOING?
SQUAWK-awk-squeek-peep-SQUAWKL!
HE SAYS IT'S HIS HOME. IT'S THE FULL MOON, THE TIME OF TESTING!
TESTING? LIKE OUR FINALS?
SORT OF, BUT IF YOU FAIL HIS TEST, SOUNDS LIKE YOU DIE!
THIS... IT'S WHAT HE MOST FEARS!
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE TESTING. THOSE WHO DON'T PASS ARE TORN APART. HE ESCAPED.
FRI-awk-END! FRIEND! man-ee FRIEND! SQUAWK-squeep-AWK!
HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL THERE. THE TEST IS TONIGHT.
HE'S AFRAID THEY'LL DIE OR MAYBE KILL EACH OTHER, I'M NOT SURE...
...BUT HE WANTS TO SAVE THEM. DOESN'T WANT THEM TO BE RIPPED TO SHREDS...
...OR STARVE.
HE WAS TAKIN' THE McBURGERS TA HIS FRIENDS?
HOW FAR IS IT TA THE NORTH ATLANTIC?
THOUSANDS OF MILES. HE WAS GONNA FLY ALL THAT WAY BACK TO A PLACE THAT TERRIFIES HIM TO SAVE HIS FRIENDS?
HOT APPLE FRITTER
TONIGHT, HUH?


HE'D NEVER MAKE IT BY HIMSELF!
ILLYANA, CAN YOU GET US TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC?
FIRST IT'S ONE BURGER, THEN IT'S TWELVE, THEN IT'S SAVE BIRD-BRAIN, THEN IT'S THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY!
WE ARE STILL GROUNDED, RAHNE. YOU'RE HEADING DOWN THE PRIMROSE PATH, YOU KNOW!
I DON'T CARE! WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM! DON'T YOU WANT TO?
SURE! I LIKE BREAKING RULES. I JUST WASN'T SURE YOU DID?
MOUNT UP, PEOPLE! LET'S GET THIS SHOW...
...ON THE ROAD!
SQUAWK-AWK!
THE NORTH ATLANTIC'S PRETTY BIG. I PLACED US CLOSE TO THAT ISLAND GROUP SAM SHOWED US ON THE MAP.
WE'RE STILL DISOBEYING. MAYBE WE SHOULD TELL MAGNETO!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
AND IT IS NIGHT! MAGNETO WON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE GONE! WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE MORNING.
BIRD-BRAIN KNOWS WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR. LET'S SHOW HIM THAT WE DO, TOO!


LOOK, THERE, HE'S LANDING. COME ON!
THERE'S NOTHING HERE-- NO LIGHTS NO PEOPLE. NOTHING. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHAT A BUST!
GRRRR
RUSTLE
SNAP
WHAT WAS THAT?
HISSSS!
YOU HAD TA ASK...!
NEXT ISSUE: FANG AND CLAW!

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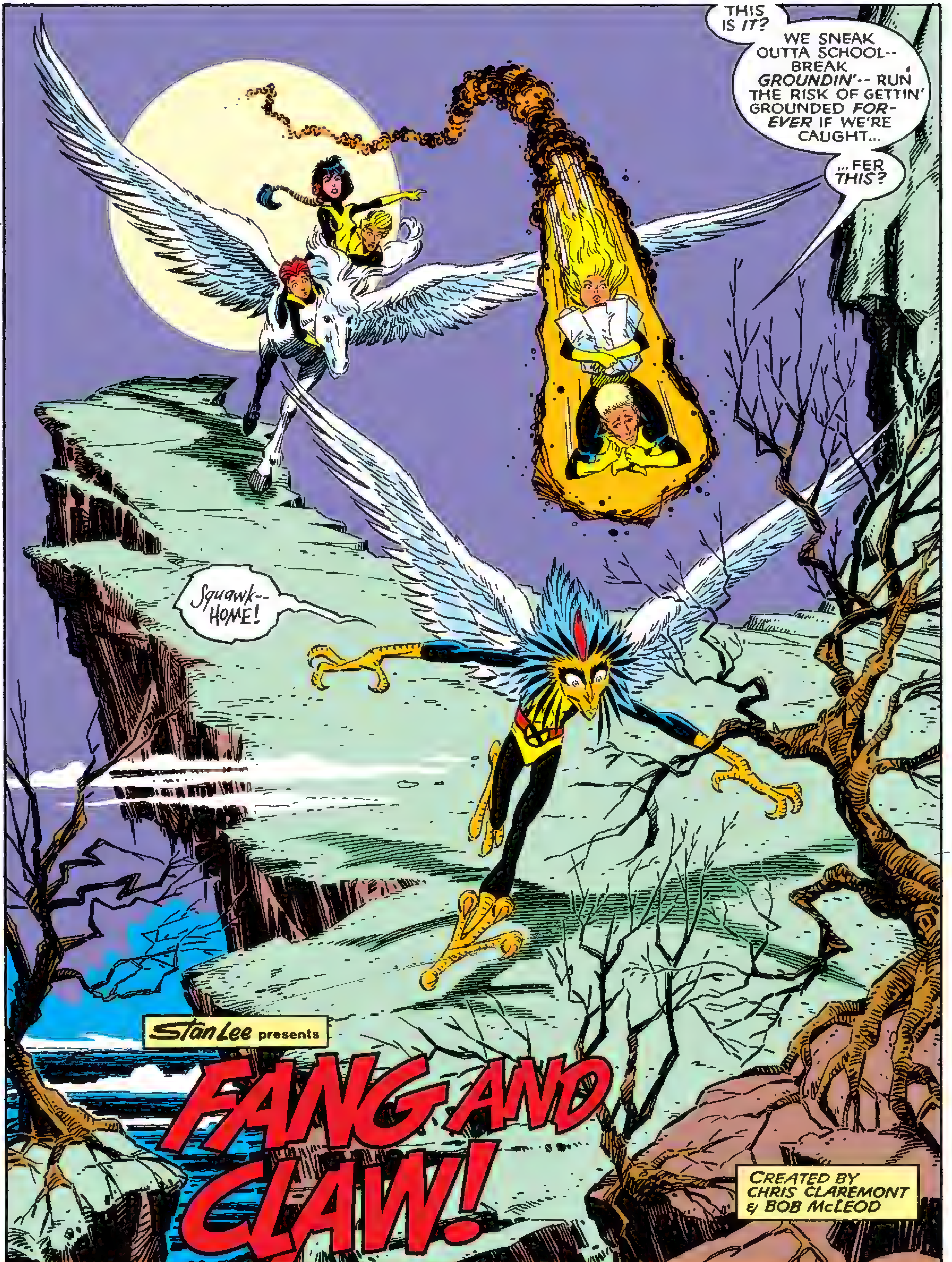
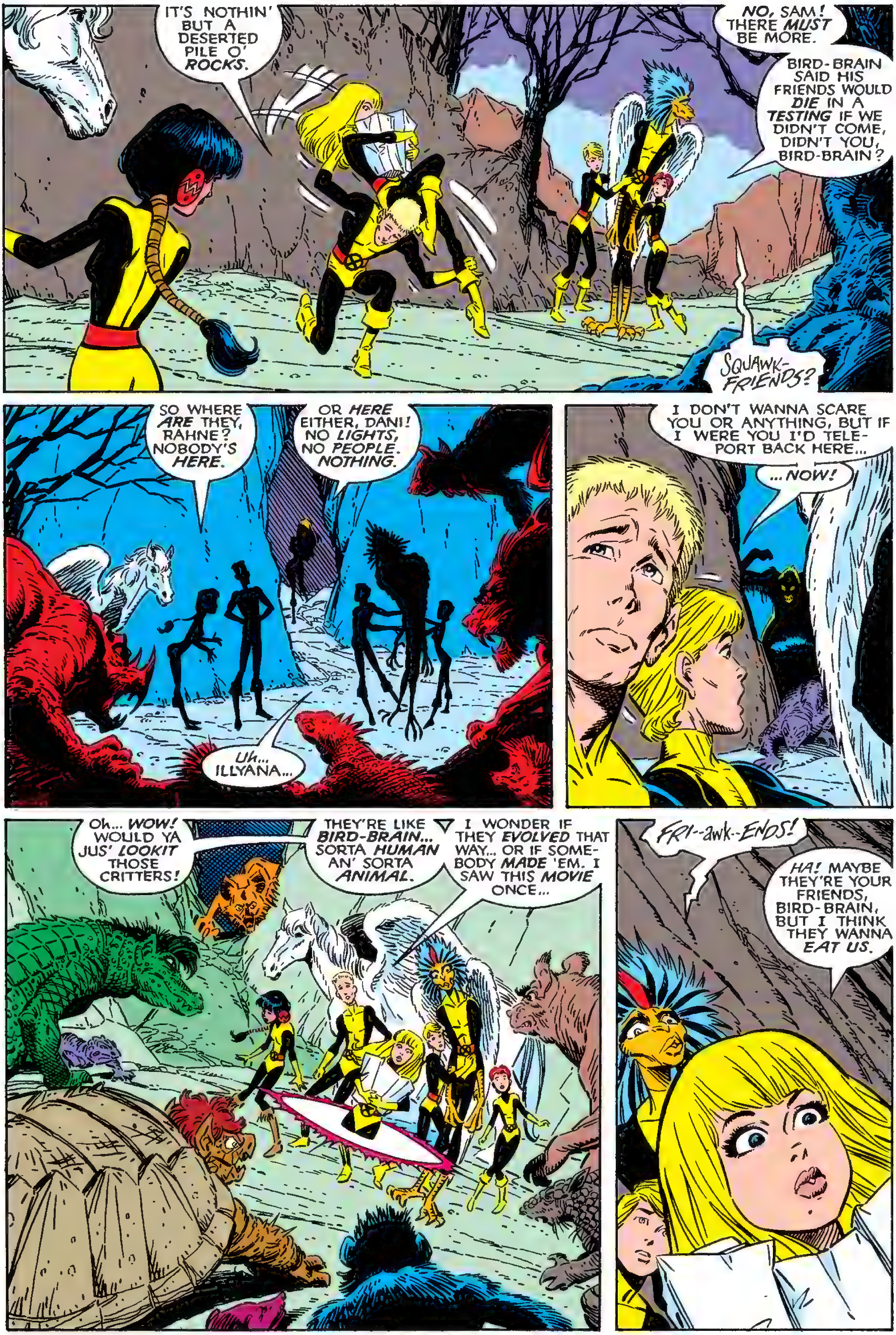
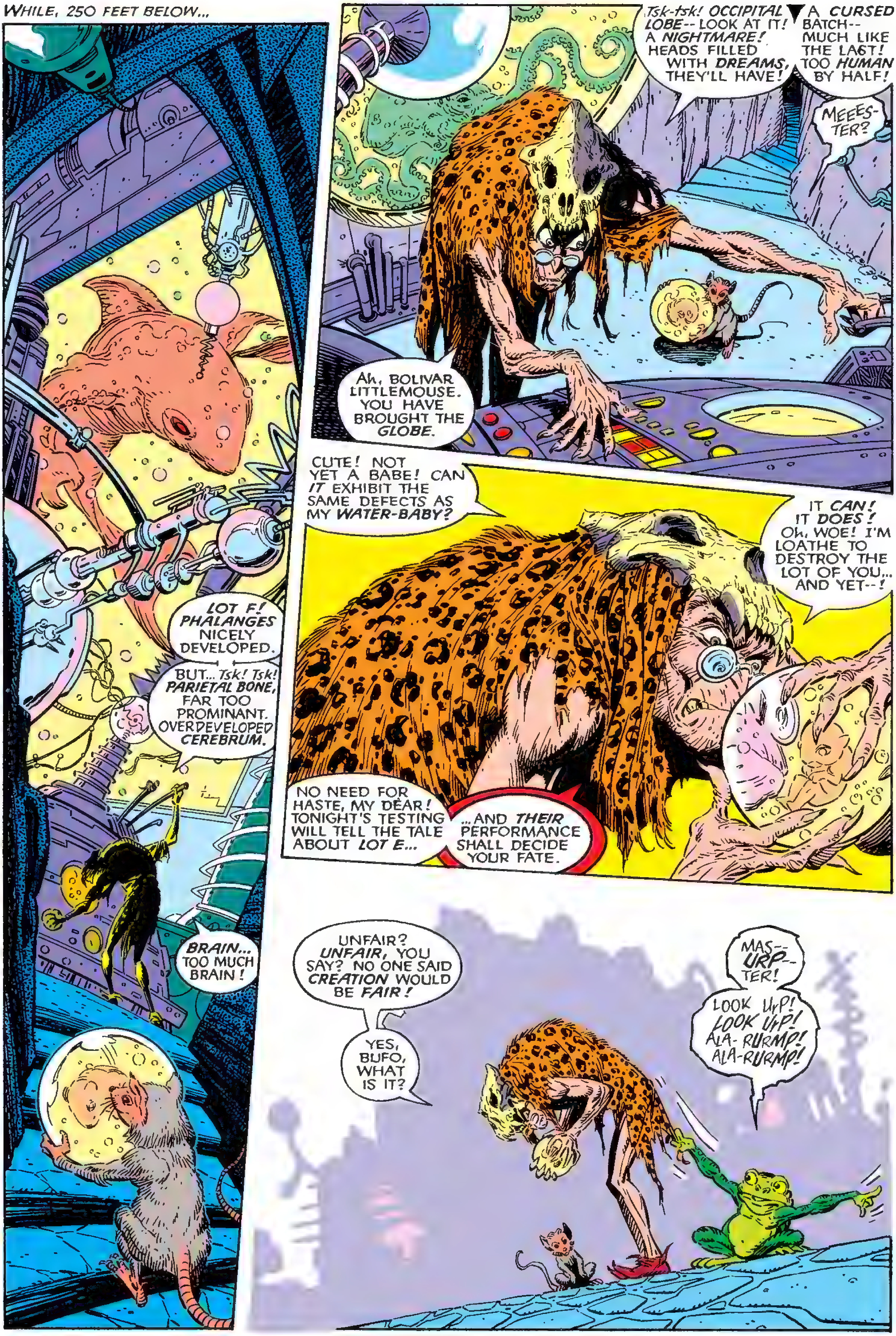
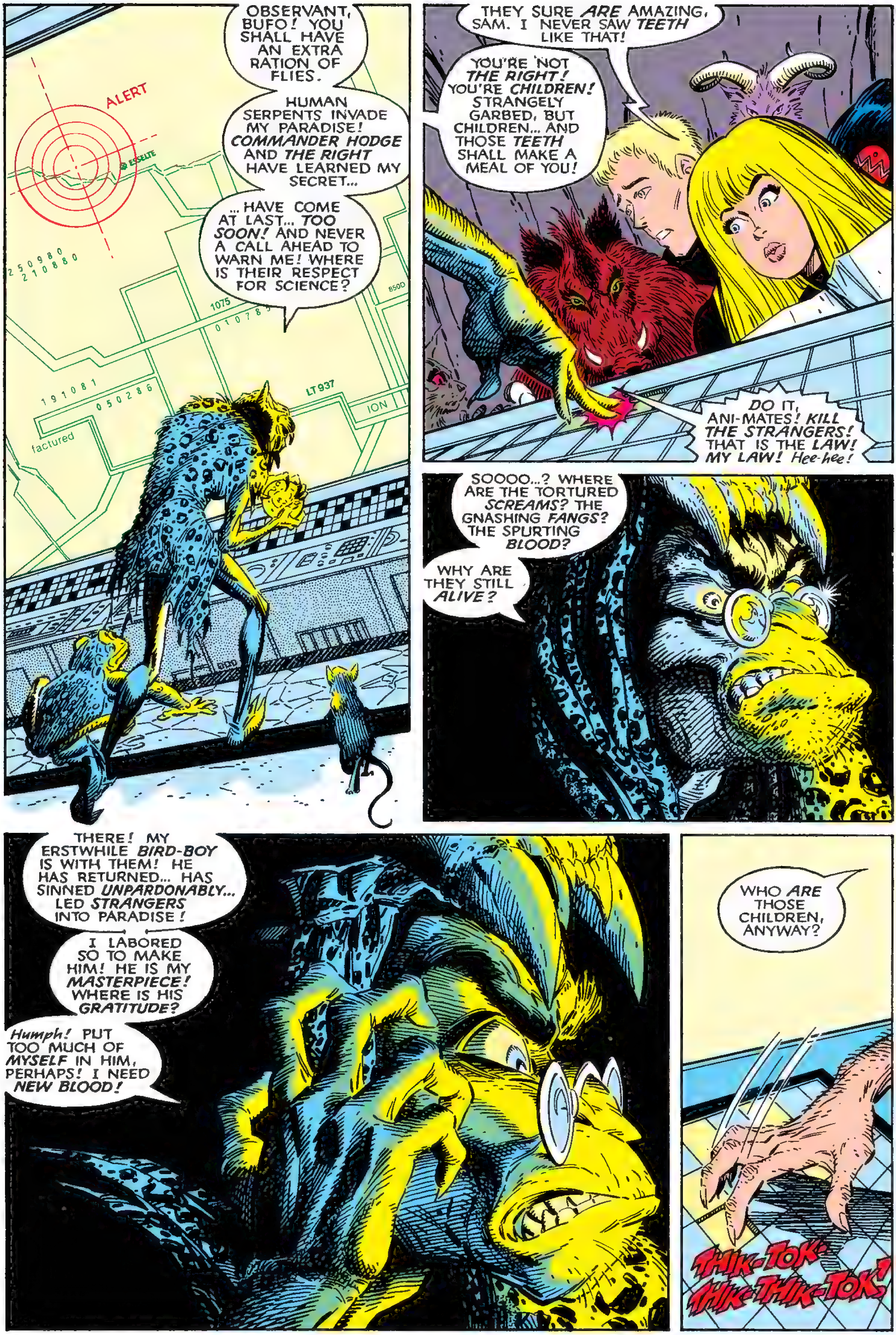
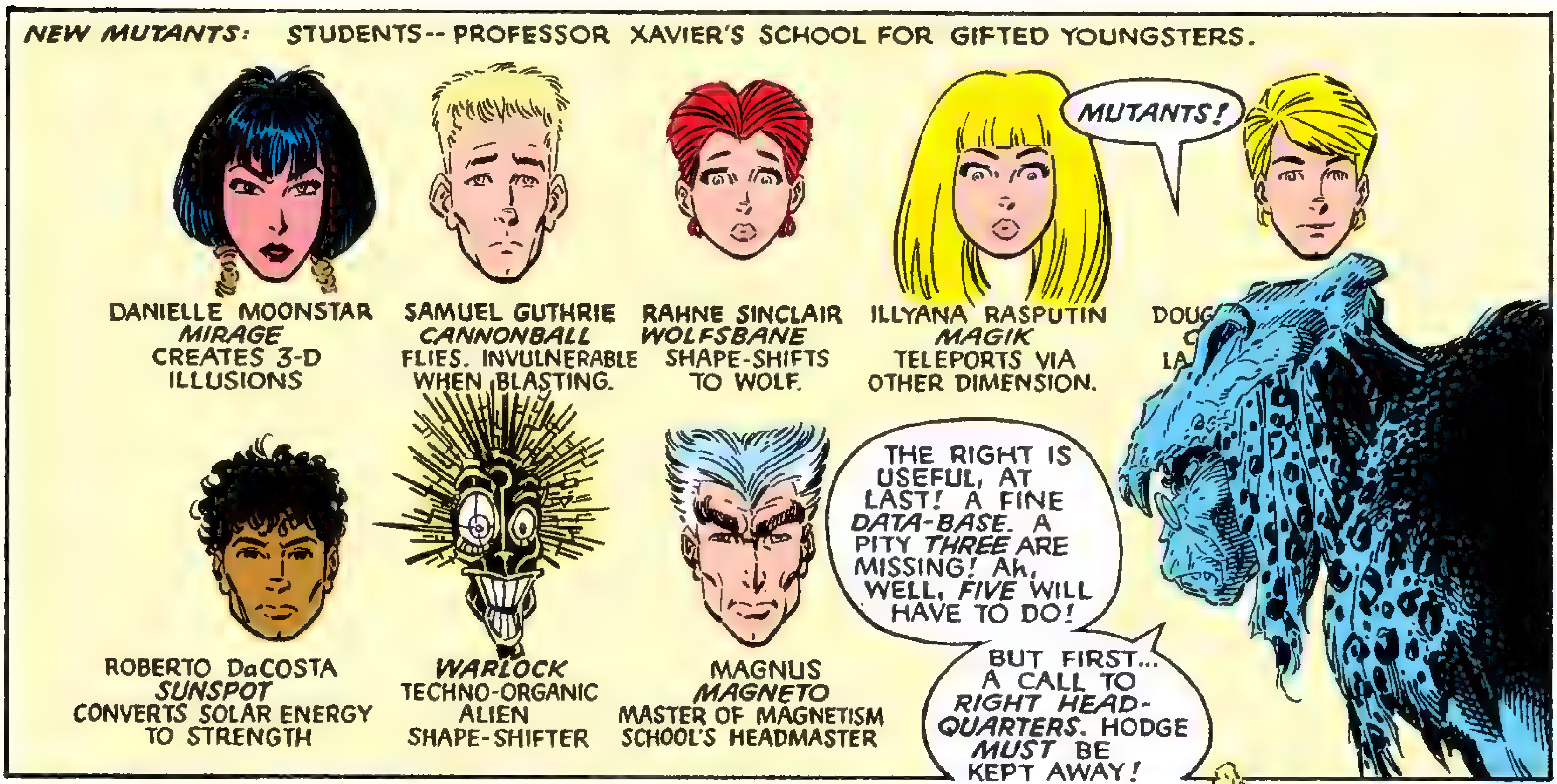

THIS IS *IT?*
WE SNEAK OUTTA SCHOOL-- BREAK *GROUNDIN'*-- RUN THE RISK OF GETTIN' GROUNDED *FOREVER* IF WE'RE CAUGHT...
...FER *THIS?*
Squawk-- HOME!
Stan Lee presents
FANG AND CLAW!
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

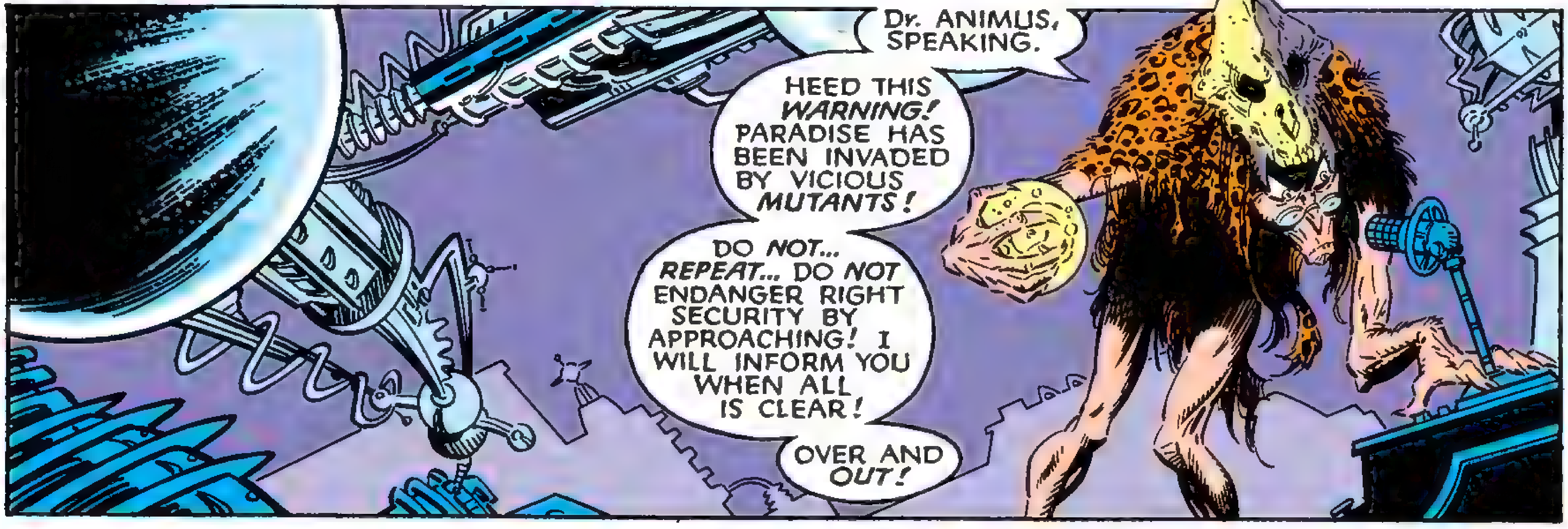
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER **BRET BLEVINS** PENCILER **TERRY AUSTIN** INKER **TOM ORZECHOWSKI**, LETTERER **GLYNIS OLIVER**, COLORIST **ANN NOCENTI** EDITOR **TOM DeFALCO** EDITOR IN CHIEF

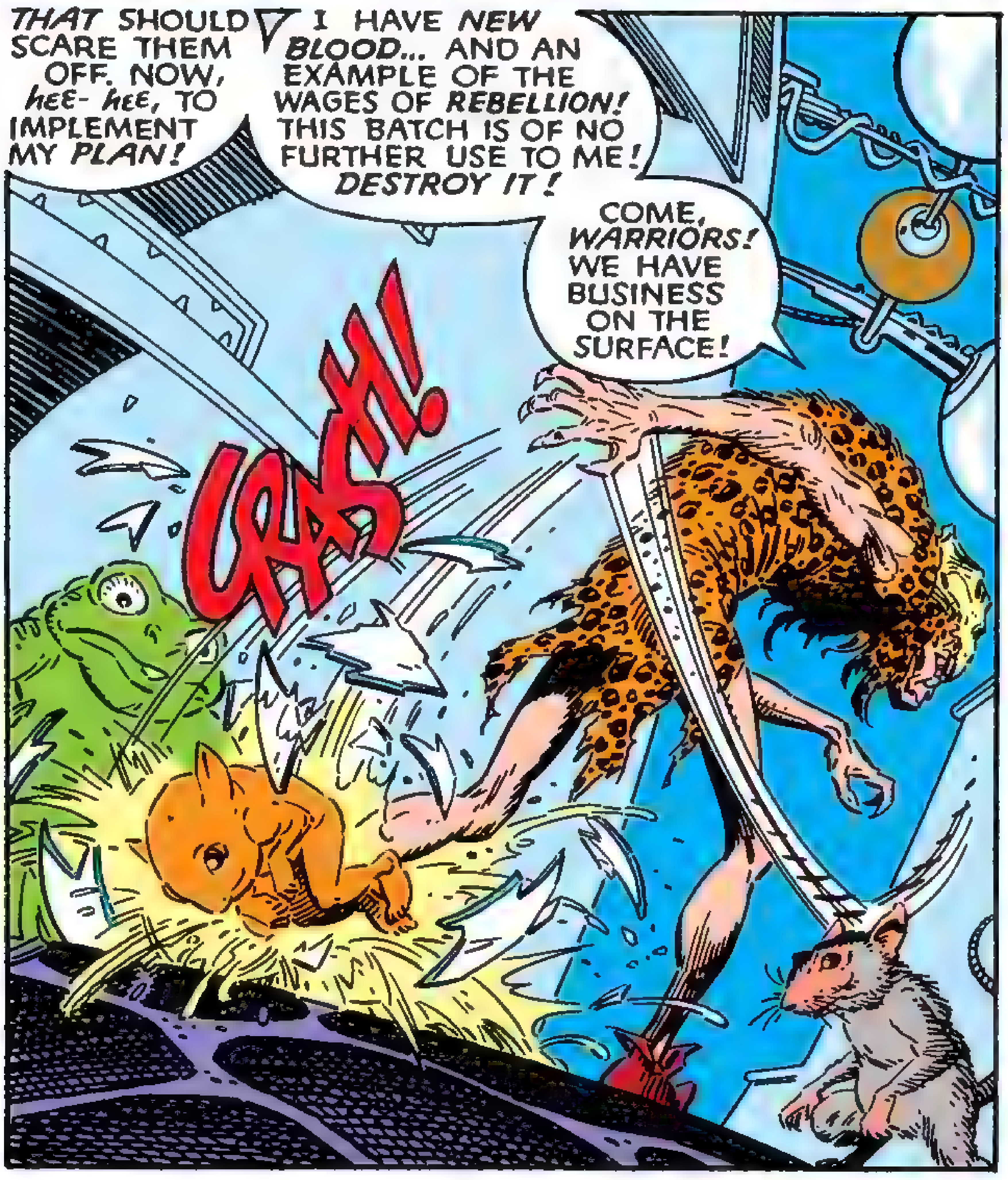

IT'S NOTHIN' BUT A DESERTED PILE O' *ROCKS*.
NO, SAM! THERE *MUST* BE MORE.
BIRD-BRAIN SAID HIS FRIENDS WOULD *DIE* IN A *TESTING* IF WE DIDN'T COME, DIDN'T YOU, BIRD-BRAIN?
SQUAWK-FRIENDS?
SO WHERE *ARE* THEY, RAHNE? NOBODY'S *HERE*.
OR *HERE* EITHER, DANI! NO *LIGHTS*, NO *PEOPLE*. *NOTHING*.
Uh... ILLYANA...
I DON'T WANNA SCARE YOU OR ANYTHING, BUT IF I WERE YOU I'D TELE-PORT BACK HERE...
...*NOW!*
Oh... *WOW!* WOULD YA JUS' *LOOKIT* THOSE CRITTERS!
THEY'RE LIKE *BIRD-BRAIN*... SORTA *HUMAN* AN' SORTA *ANIMAL*.
I WONDER IF THEY *EVOLVED* THAT WAY... OR IF SOME-BODY *MADE* 'EM. I SAW THIS *MOVIE* ONCE...
FRI--awk--ENDS!
HA! MAYBE THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS, BIRD-BRAIN, BUT I THINK THEY WANNA *EAT US*.

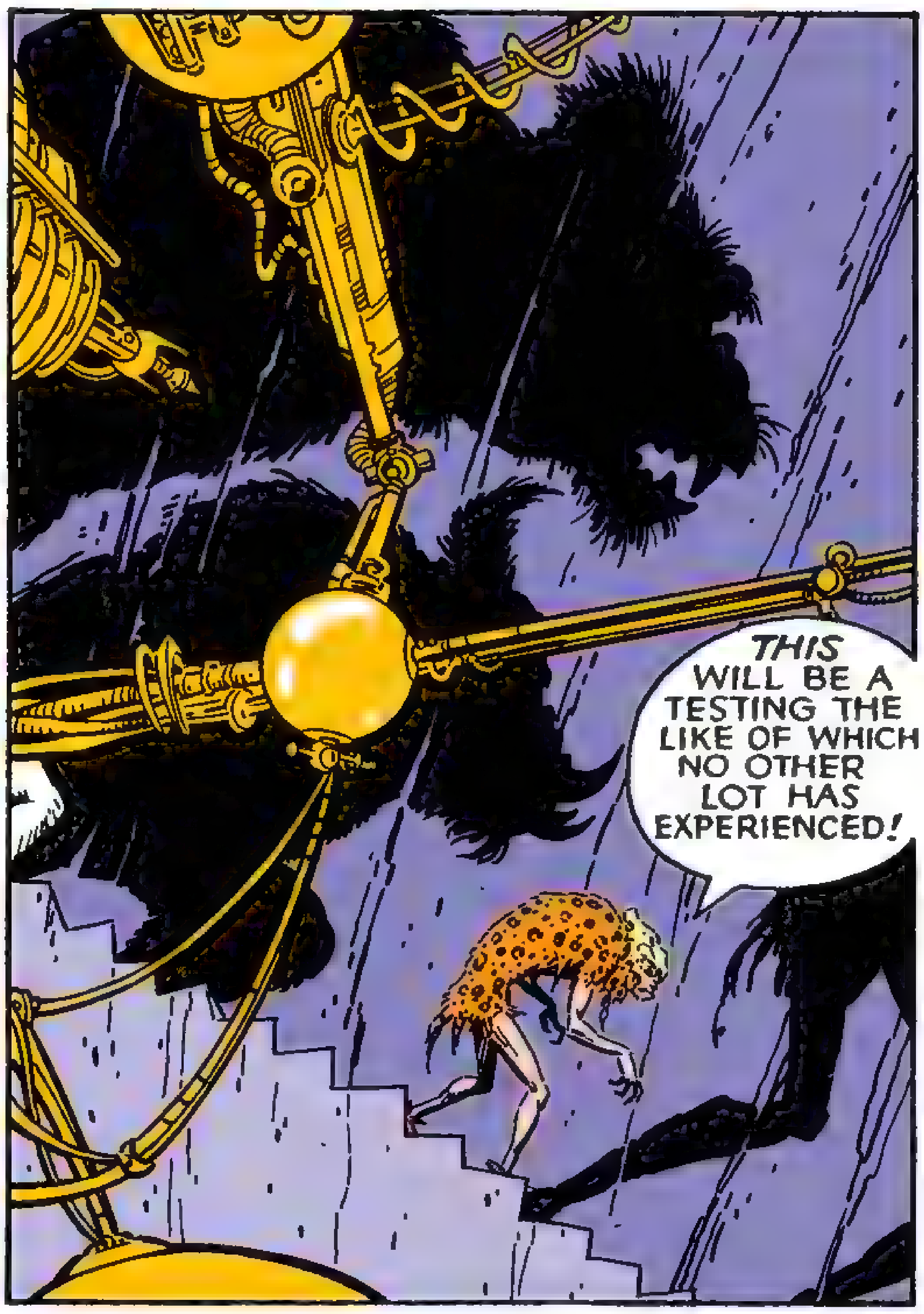

WHILE, 250 FEET BELOW...
LOT F! PHALANGES NICELY DEVELOPED.
BUT... Tsk! Tsk! PARIETAL BONE, FAR TOO PROMINANT. OVERDEVELOPED CEREBRUM.
BRAIN... TOO MUCH BRAIN!
Tsk-tsk! OCCIPITAL LOBE-- LOOK AT IT! A NIGHTMARE! HEADS FILLED WITH DREAMS, THEY'LL HAVE!
A CURSED BATCH-- MUCH LIKE THE LAST! TOO HUMAN BY HALF!
MEEES-TER?
Ah, BOLIVAR LITTLEMOUSE. YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE GLOBE.
CUTE! NOT YET A BABE! CAN IT EXHIBIT THE SAME DEFECTS AS MY WATER-BABY?
IT CAN! IT DOES! Oh, WOE! I'M LOATHE TO DESTROY THE LOT OF YOU... AND YET--!
NO NEED FOR HASTE, MY DEAR! TONIGHT'S TESTING WILL TELL THE TALE ABOUT LOT E...
...AND THEIR PERFORMANCE SHALL DECIDE YOUR FATE.
UNFAIR? UNFAIR, YOU SAY? NO ONE SAID CREATION WOULD BE FAIR!
YES, BUFO, WHAT IS IT?
MAS-- URP-- TER!
LOOK UP! LOOK UP! ALA-RURMP! ALA-RURMP!

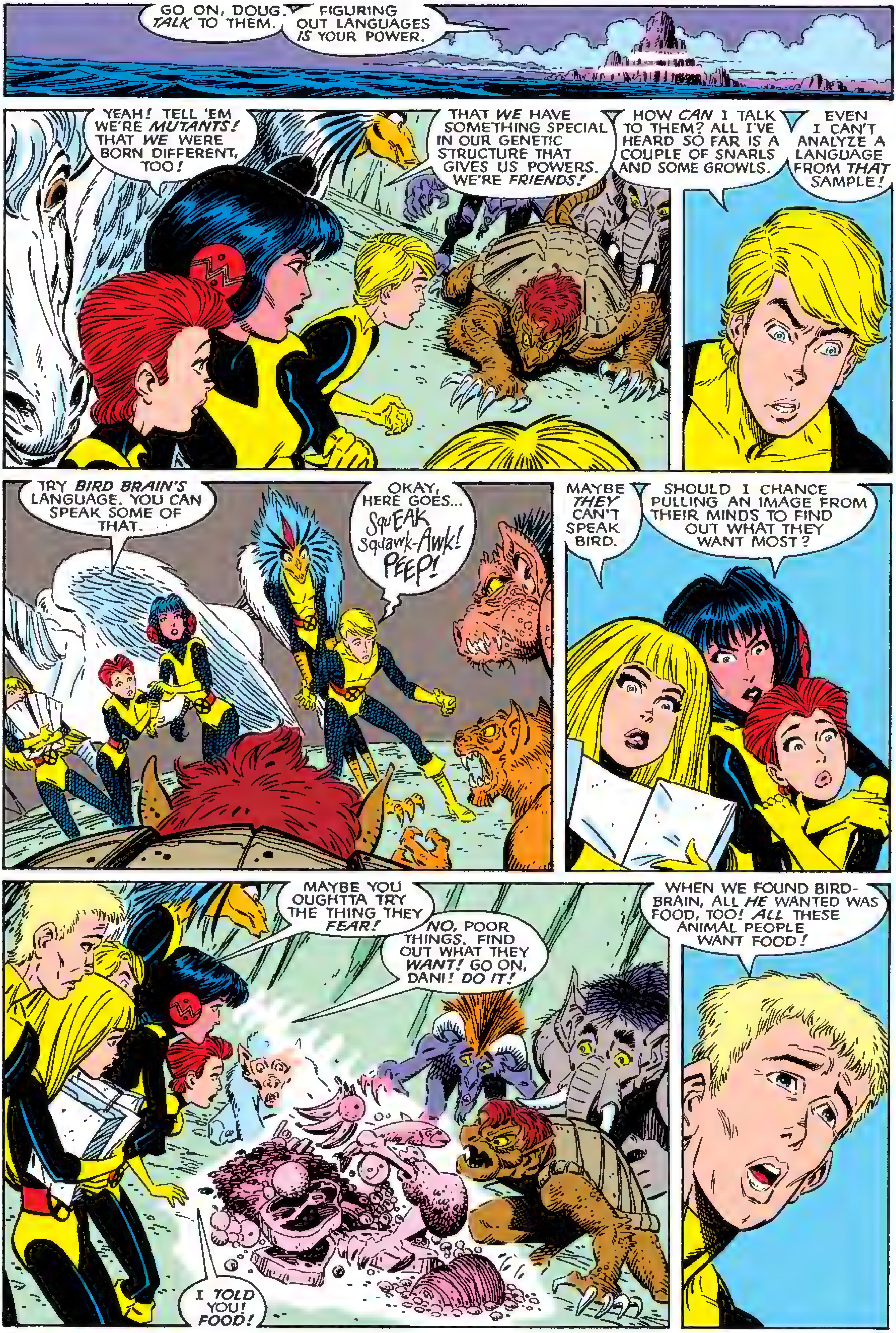

OBSERVANT, BUFO! YOU SHALL HAVE AN EXTRA RATION OF FLIES.
HUMAN SERPENTS INVADE MY PARADISE! *COMMANDER HODGE* AND *THE RIGHT* HAVE LEARNED MY SECRET...
... HAVE COME AT LAST... *TOO SOON!* AND NEVER A CALL AHEAD TO WARN ME! WHERE IS THEIR RESPECT FOR SCIENCE?
ALERT
THEY SURE *ARE* AMAZING, SAM. I NEVER SAW *TEETH* LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE NOT *THE RIGHT!* YOU'RE *CHILDREN!* STRANGELY GARBED, BUT CHILDREN... AND THOSE *TEETH* SHALL MAKE A MEAL OF YOU!
DO IT, ANI-MATES! *KILL THE STRANGERS!* THAT IS THE *LAW!* *MY LAW!* *Hee-hee!*
SOOOO...? WHERE ARE THE TORTURED *SCREAMS?* THE GNASHING *FANGS?* THE SPURTING *BLOOD?*
WHY ARE THEY STILL *ALIVE?*
THERE! MY ERSTWHILE *BIRD-BOY* IS WITH THEM! HE HAS RETURNED... HAS SINNED *UNPARDONABLY...* LED *STRANGERS* INTO PARADISE!
I LABORED SO TO MAKE HIM! HE IS MY *MASTERPIECE!* WHERE IS HIS *GRATITUDE?*
Humph! PUT TOO MUCH OF *MYSELF* IN HIM, PERHAPS! I NEED *NEW BLOOD!*
WHO *ARE* THOSE CHILDREN, ANYWAY?
THIK-TOK-THIK-THIK-TOK!


NEW MUTANTS: STUDENTS-- PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
MUTANTS!
DANIELLE MOONSTAR MIRAGE CREATES 3-D ILLUSIONS
SAMUEL GUTHRIE CANNONBALL FLIES. INVULNERABLE WHEN BLASTING.
RAHNE SINCLAIR WOLFSBANE SHAPE-SHIFTS TO WOLF.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN MAGIK TELEPORTS VIA OTHER DIMENSION.
DOUG C LA
ROBERTO DaCOSTA SUNSPOT CONVERTS SOLAR ENERGY TO STRENGTH
WARLOCK TECHNO-ORGANIC ALIEN SHAPE-SHIFTER
MAGNUS MAGNETO MASTER OF MAGNETISM SCHOOL'S HEADMASTER
THE RIGHT IS USEFUL, AT LAST! A FINE DATA-BASE. A PITY THREE ARE MISSING! Ah, WELL, FIVE WILL HAVE TO DO!
BUT FIRST... A CALL TO RIGHT HEAD-QUARTERS. HODGE MUST BE KEPT AWAY!

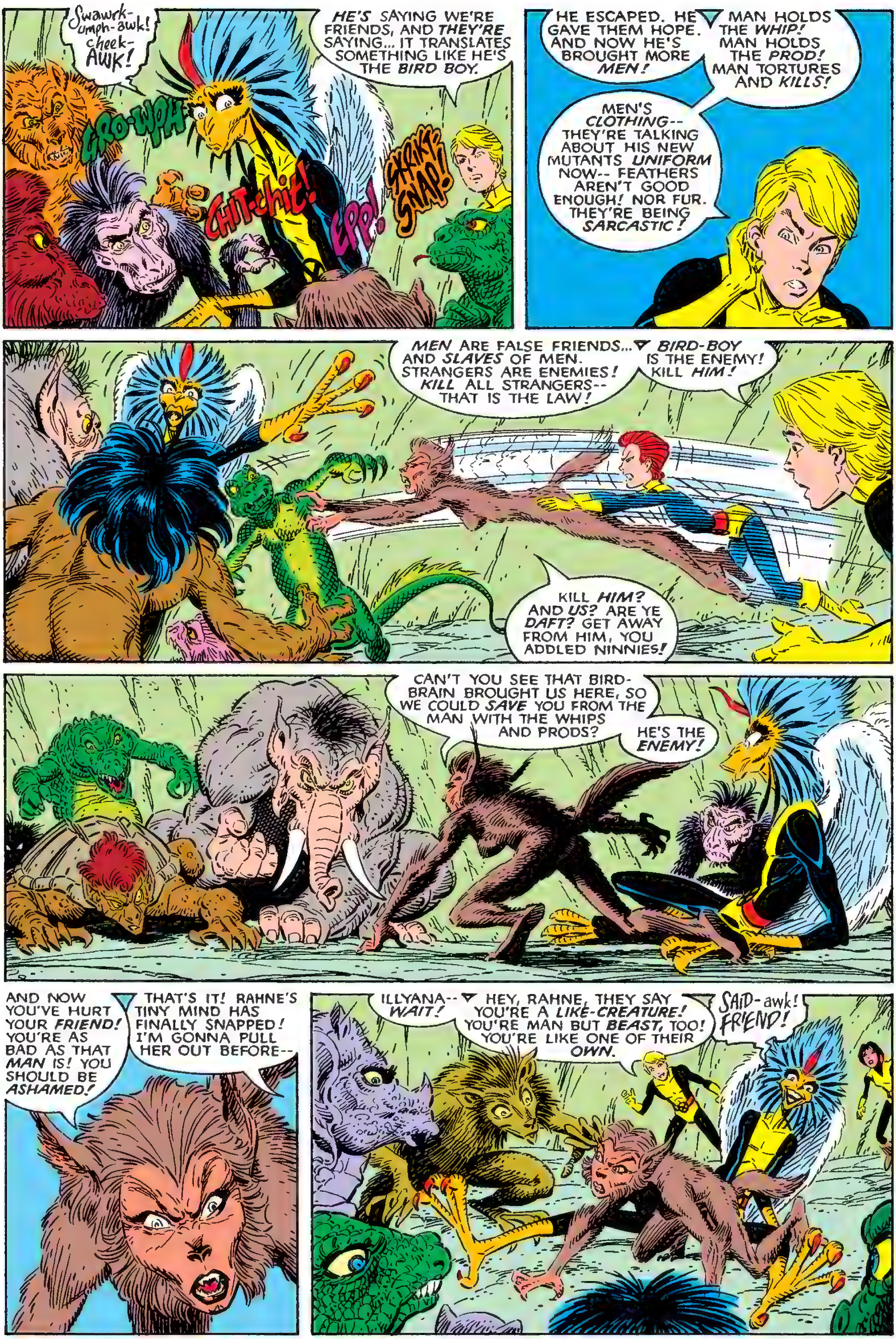

Dr. ANIMUS, SPEAKING.
HEED THIS WARNING! PARADISE HAS BEEN INVADED BY VICIOUS MUTANTS!
DO NOT... REPEAT... DO NOT ENDANGER RIGHT SECURITY BY APPROACHING! I WILL INFORM YOU WHEN ALL IS CLEAR!
OVER AND OUT!

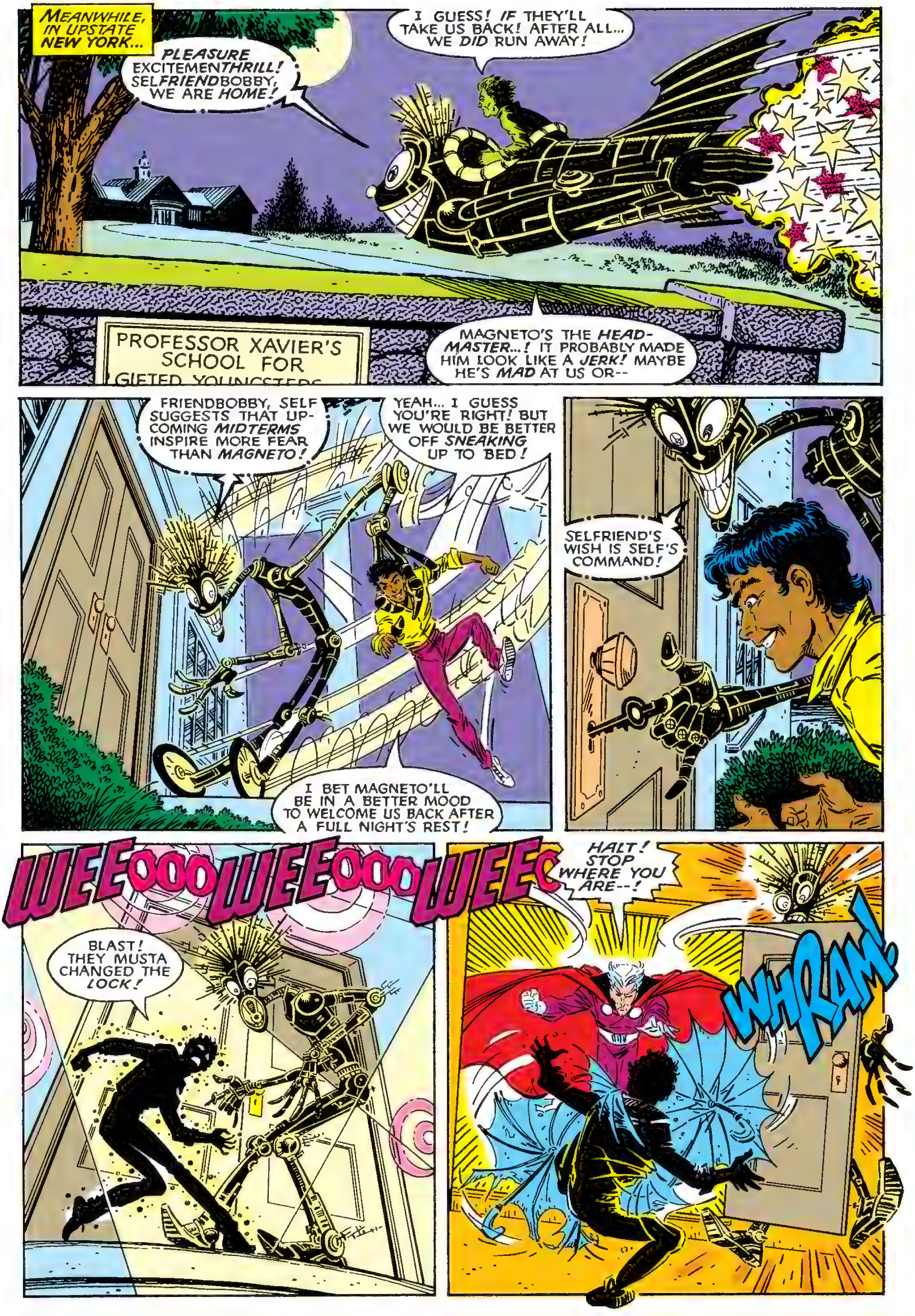

THAT SHOULD SCARE THEM OFF. NOW, hee-hee, TO IMPLEMENT MY PLAN!
I HAVE NEW BLOOD... AND AN EXAMPLE OF THE WAGES OF REBELLION! THIS BATCH IS OF NO FURTHER USE TO ME! DESTROY IT!
COME, WARRIORS! WE HAVE BUSINESS ON THE SURFACE!
CRASH!

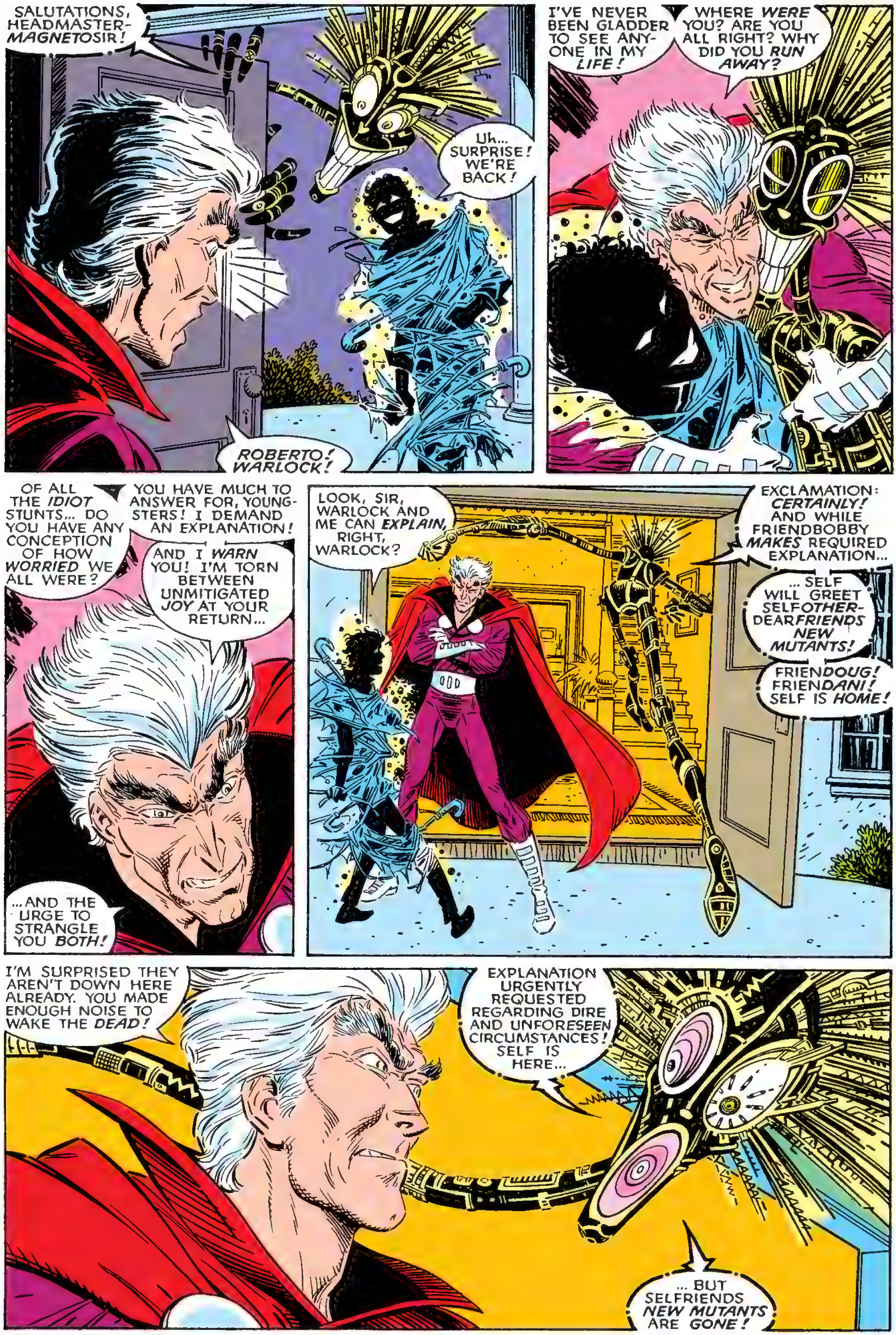

THIS WILL BE A TESTING THE LIKE OF WHICH NO OTHER LOT HAS EXPERIENCED!

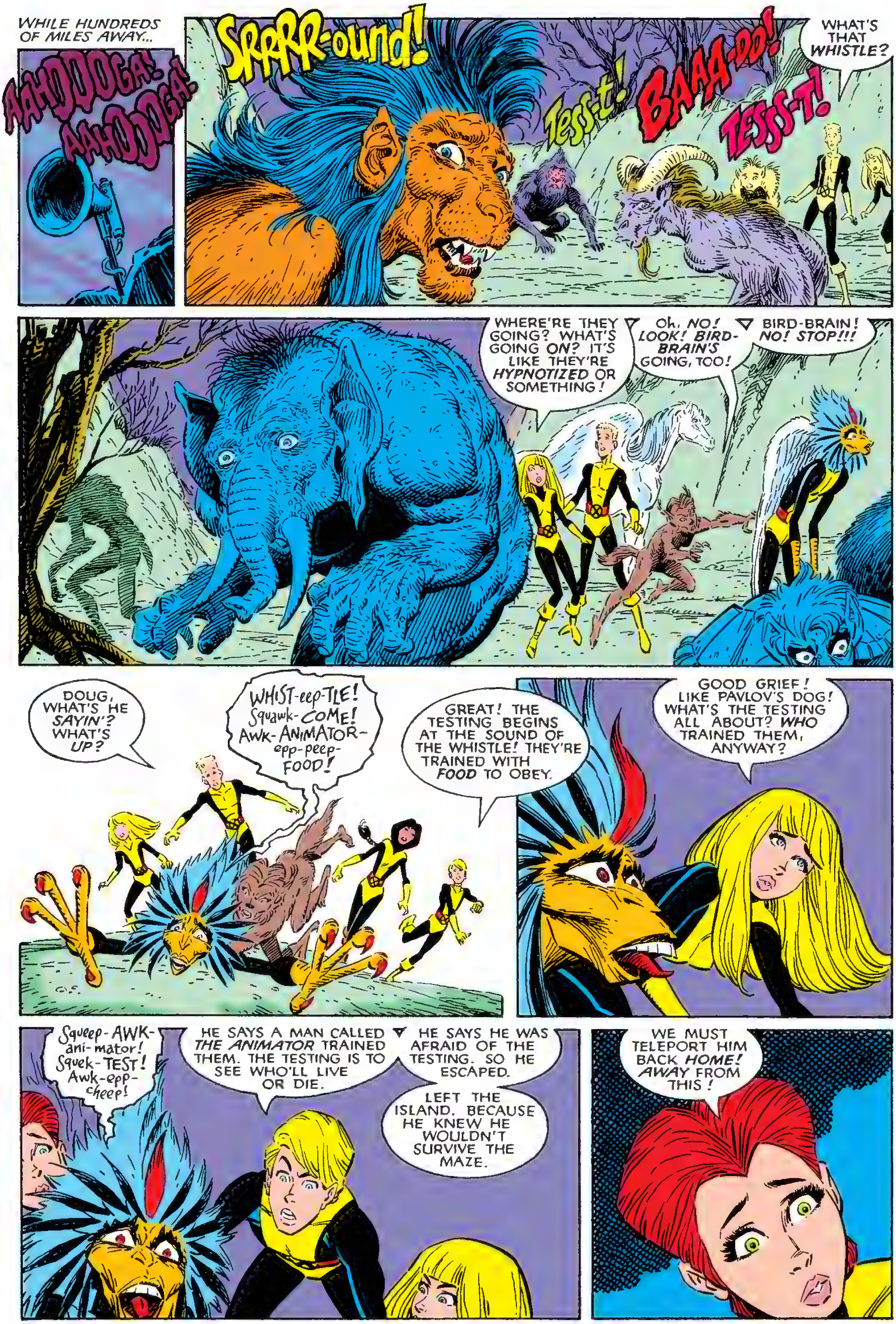

GO ON, DOUG. *TALK* TO THEM.
FIGURING OUT LANGUAGES *IS* YOUR POWER.
YEAH! TELL 'EM WE'RE *MUTANTS!* THAT *WE* WERE BORN DIFFERENT, TOO!
THAT *WE* HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN OUR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES US POWERS. WE'RE *FRIENDS!*
HOW *CAN* I TALK TO THEM? ALL I'VE HEARD SO FAR IS A COUPLE OF SNARLS AND SOME GROWLS.
EVEN I CAN'T ANALYZE A LANGUAGE FROM *THAT* SAMPLE!
TRY *BIRD BRAIN'S* LANGUAGE. YOU CAN SPEAK SOME OF THAT.
OKAY, HERE GOES... SqUEAK Squawk-Awk! PEEP!
MAYBE *THEY* CAN'T SPEAK BIRD.
SHOULD I CHANCE PULLING AN IMAGE FROM THEIR MINDS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT MOST?
MAYBE YOU OUGHTTA TRY THE THING THEY *FEAR!*
NO, POOR THINGS. FIND OUT WHAT THEY *WANT!* GO ON, DANI! *DO IT!*
I *TOLD* YOU! *FOOD!*
WHEN WE FOUND BIRD-BRAIN, ALL *HE* WANTED WAS FOOD, TOO! *ALL* THESE ANIMAL PEOPLE WANT FOOD!

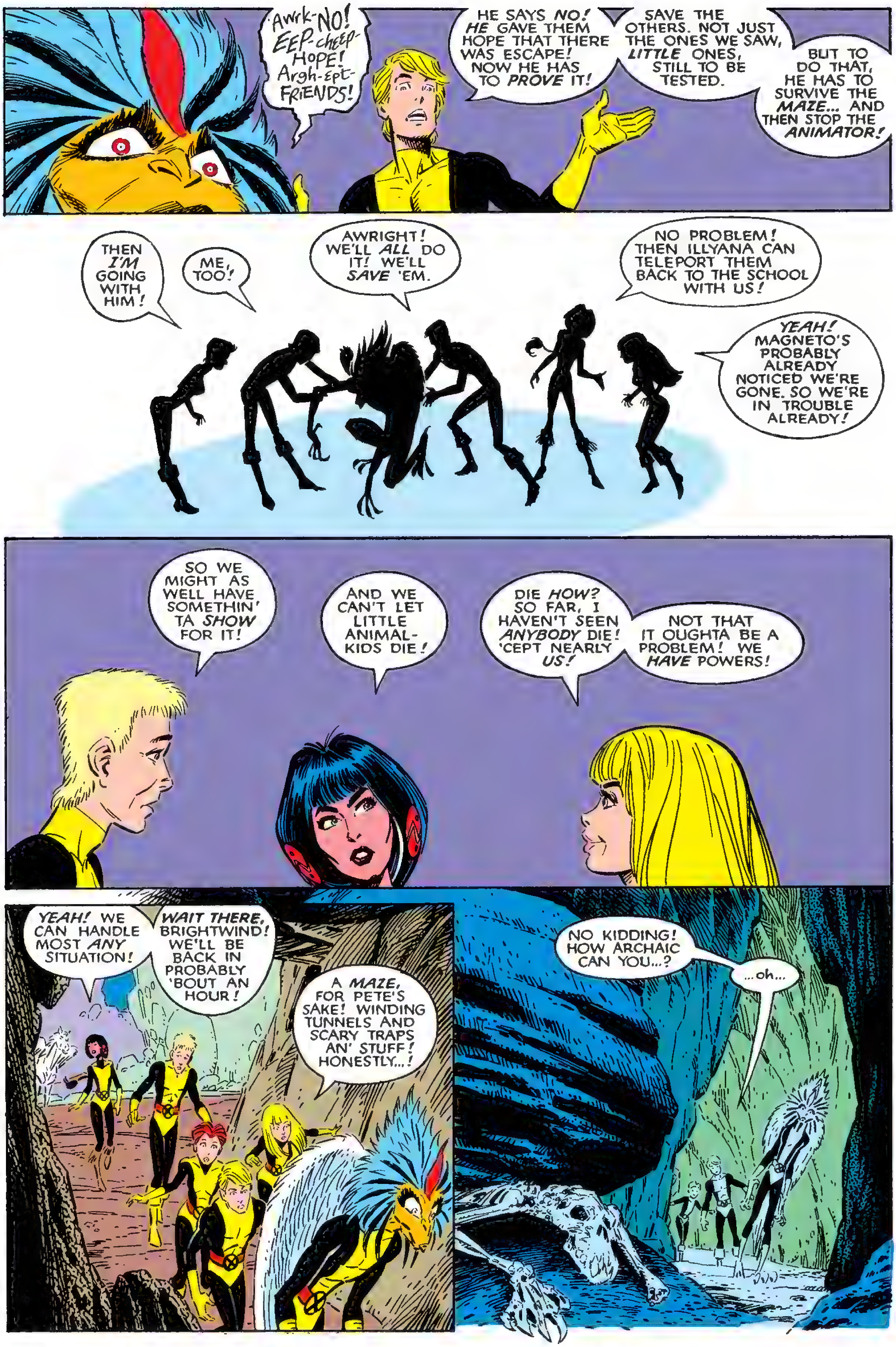
LIKE SOMEBODY'S KEEPING THEM HALF STARVED AND--
HEY--!
FRIENDS! HUNGER-awk! French-FRIES-sawk! Chawk-AWK-late-SNAK-awk!
SO THAT'S WHY BIRD-BRAIN WANTED TO BRING McBURGERS!
NICE TRY, FELLA, BUT THAT WON'T DISTRACT THEM FOR LONG!
WANT ME TO 'PORT US HOME?
GIMME A BREAK, ILLYANA. THEY'RE ANIMAL-PEOPLE.
WE'RE MUTANTS. HOMO-SUPERIOR. THE NEXT STEP UP THE EVOLUTIONARY LADDER. ALL THAT STUFF.
WE GOT POWERS! WHAT'VE WE GOT TA BE SCARED OF?
BACK-awkf! BACK-kawkff!
GRUMPHF! Growr-UMPHF!
HEY! KEEP HIM TALKING, BIRD-BRAIN! I'M FINALLY BEGINNING TO GET SOME OF IT!

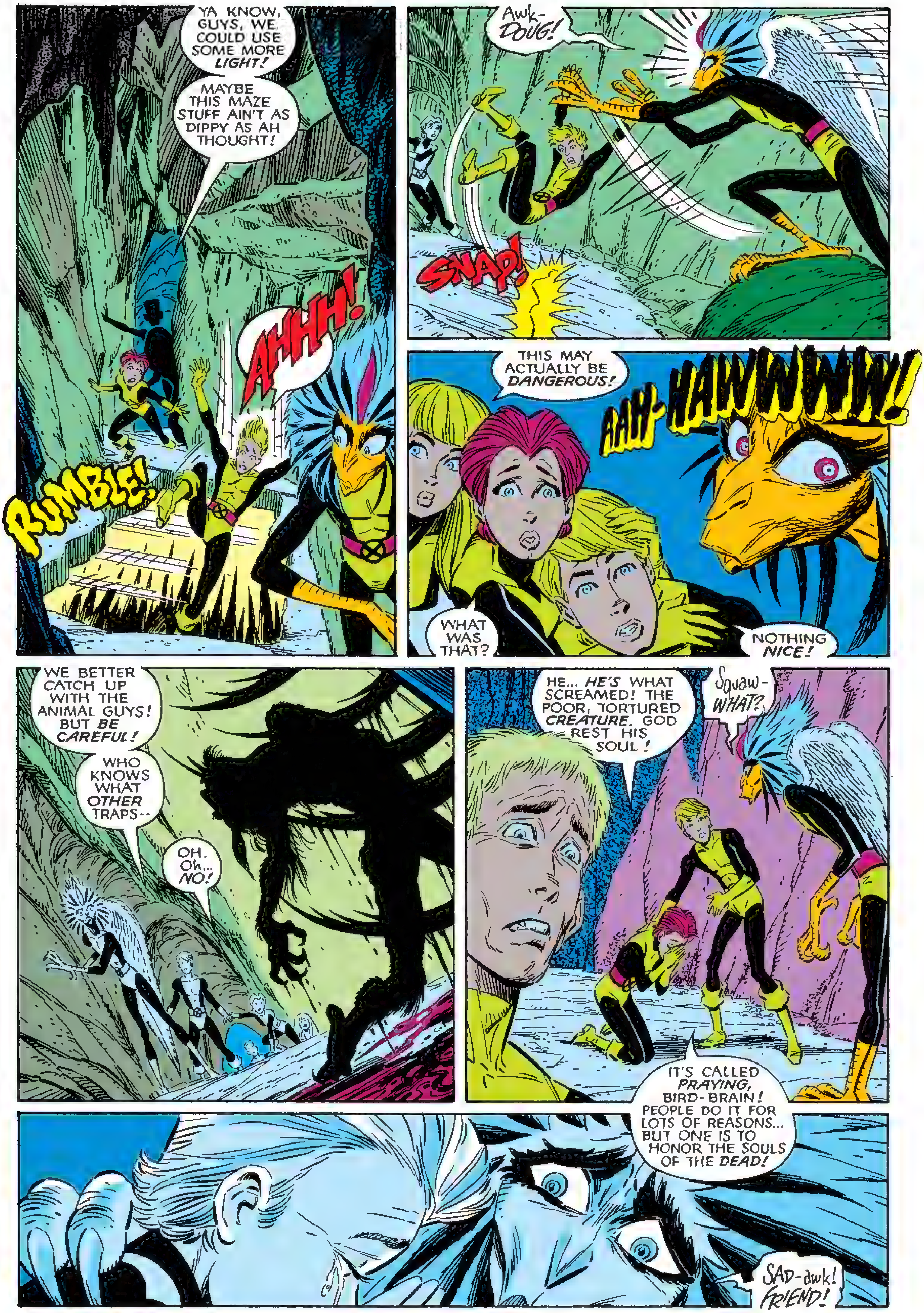

Swawrk-umph-awk! cheek-AWK!
HE'S SAYING WE'RE FRIENDS, AND *THEY'RE* SAYING... IT TRANSLATES SOMETHING LIKE HE'S THE *BIRD BOY.*
GRO-WPH
CHIT-chit!
EPP!
SKRIK! SNAP!
HE ESCAPED. HE GAVE THEM HOPE. AND NOW HE'S BROUGHT MORE *MEN!*
MAN HOLDS THE *WHIP!* MAN HOLDS THE *PROD!* MAN TORTURES AND *KILLS!*
MEN'S *CLOTHING*-- THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HIS NEW MUTANTS *UNIFORM* NOW-- FEATHERS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH! NOR FUR. THEY'RE BEING *SARCASTIC!*
MEN ARE FALSE FRIENDS... AND *SLAVES* OF MEN. STRANGERS ARE ENEMIES! *KILL* ALL STRANGERS-- THAT IS THE LAW!
BIRD-BOY IS THE ENEMY! KILL *HIM!*
KILL *HIM?* AND *US?* ARE YE *DAFT?* GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU ADDLED NINNIES!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT BIRD-BRAIN BROUGHT US HERE, SO WE COULD *SAVE* YOU FROM THE MAN WITH THE WHIPS AND PRODS?
HE'S THE *ENEMY!*
AND NOW YOU'VE HURT YOUR *FRIEND!* YOU'RE AS BAD AS THAT *MAN* IS! YOU SHOULD BE *ASHAMED!*
THAT'S IT! RAHNE'S TINY MIND HAS FINALLY SNAPPED! I'M GONNA PULL HER OUT BEFORE--
ILLYANA-- *WAIT!*
HEY, RAHNE, THEY SAY YOU'RE A *LIKE-CREATURE!* YOU'RE MAN BUT *BEAST,* TOO! YOU'RE LIKE ONE OF THEIR *OWN.*
SAID-awk! FRIEND!


MEANWHILE, IN UPSTATE NEW YORK...
PLEASURE EXCITEMENTHRILL! SELFRIENDBOBBY, WE ARE HOME!
I GUESS! IF THEY'LL TAKE US BACK! AFTER ALL... WE DID RUN AWAY!
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
MAGNETO'S THE HEADMASTER...! IT PROBABLY MADE HIM LOOK LIKE A JERK! MAYBE HE'S MAD AT US OR--
FRIENDBOBBY, SELF SUGGESTS THAT UPCOMING MIDTERMS INSPIRE MORE FEAR THAN MAGNETO!
YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WE WOULD BE BETTER OFF SNEAKING UP TO BED!
I BET MAGNETO'LL BE IN A BETTER MOOD TO WELCOME US BACK AFTER A FULL NIGHT'S REST!
SELFRIEND'S WISH IS SELF'S COMMAND!
WEEOOOWEEOOOWEEO
BLAST! THEY MUSTA CHANGED THE LOCK!
HALT! STOP WHERE YOU ARE--!
WHRAM!


SALUTATIONS, HEADMASTER-MAGNETOSIR!
Uh... SURPRISE! WE'RE BACK!
ROBERTO! WARLOCK!
I'VE NEVER BEEN GLADDER TO SEE ANYONE IN MY LIFE!
WHERE WERE YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?
OF ALL THE IDIOT STUNTS... DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCEPTION OF HOW WORRIED WE ALL WERE?
YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR, YOUNGSTERS! I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
AND I WARN YOU! I'M TORN BETWEEN UNMITIGATED JOY AT YOUR RETURN...
...AND THE URGE TO STRANGLE YOU BOTH!
LOOK, SIR, WARLOCK AND ME CAN EXPLAIN, RIGHT, WARLOCK?
EXCLAMATION: CERTAINLY! AND WHILE FRIENDBOBBY MAKES REQUIRED EXPLANATION...
... SELF WILL GREET SELFOTHER-DEARFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS!
FRIENDDOUG! FRIENDDANI! SELF IS HOME!
I'M SURPRISED THEY AREN'T DOWN HERE ALREADY. YOU MADE ENOUGH NOISE TO WAKE THE DEAD!
EXPLANATION URGENTLY REQUESTED REGARDING DIRE AND UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES! SELF IS HERE...
... BUT SELFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS ARE GONE!

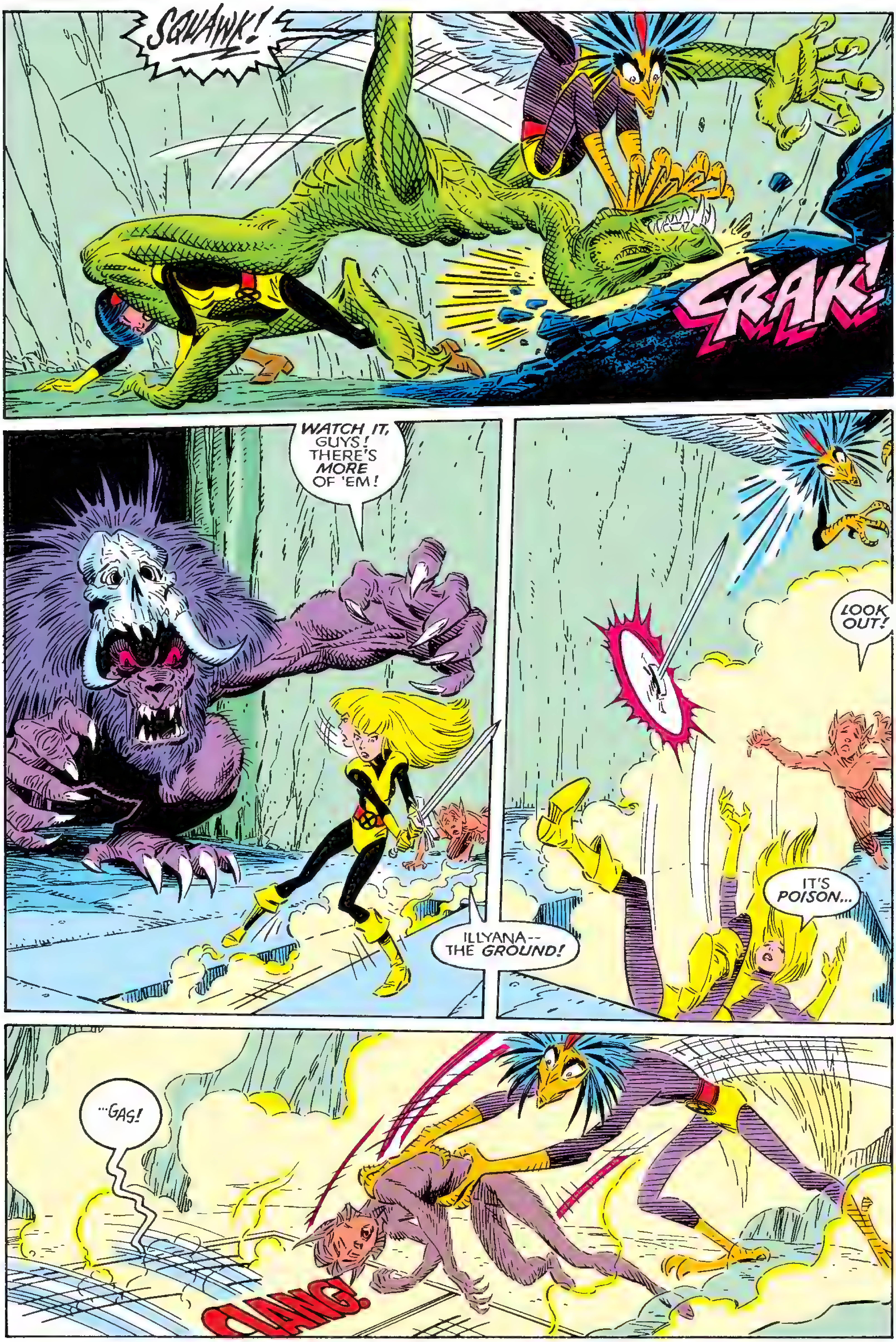

WHILE HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY...
AAHOOOGA! AAHOOOGA!
SRRRR-ound!
TESS-T!
BAAA-DO!
TESSS-T!
WHAT'S THAT WHISTLE?
WHERE'RE THEY GOING? WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S LIKE THEY'RE HYPNOTIZED OR SOMETHING!
Oh, NO! LOOK! BIRD-BRAIN'S GOING, TOO!
BIRD-BRAIN! NO! STOP!!!
DOUG, WHAT'S HE SAYIN'? WHAT'S UP?
WHIST-eep-TLE! Squawk-COME! Awk-ANIMATOR-epp-peep-FOOD!
GREAT! THE TESTING BEGINS AT THE SOUND OF THE WHISTLE! THEY'RE TRAINED WITH FOOD TO OBEY.
GOOD GRIEF! LIKE PAVLOV'S DOG! WHAT'S THE TESTING ALL ABOUT? WHO TRAINED THEM, ANYWAY?
Squeep-AWK-ani-mator! Squek-TEST! Awk-epp-cheep!
HE SAYS A MAN CALLED THE ANIMATOR TRAINED THEM. THE TESTING IS TO SEE WHO'LL LIVE OR DIE.
HE SAYS HE WAS AFRAID OF THE TESTING. SO HE ESCAPED.
LEFT THE ISLAND. BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WOULDN'T SURVIVE THE MAZE.
WE MUST TELEPORT HIM BACK HOME! AWAY FROM THIS!

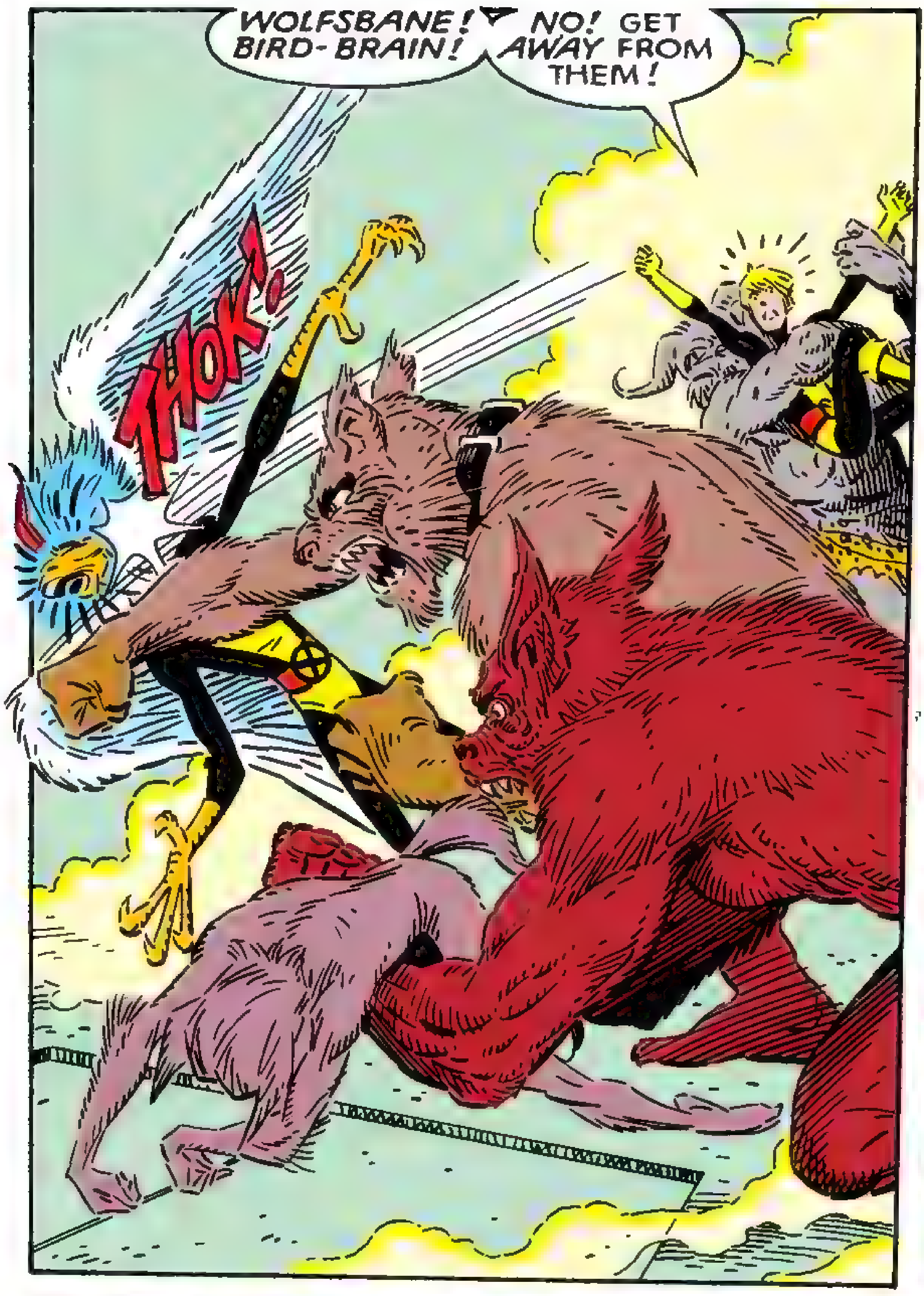

Awrk-NO! EEP-cheep-Hope! Argh-Ept-FRIENDS!
HE SAYS NO! HE GAVE THEM HOPE THAT THERE WAS ESCAPE! NOW HE HAS TO PROVE IT!
SAVE THE OTHERS. NOT JUST THE ONES WE SAW, LITTLE ONES, STILL TO BE TESTED.
BUT TO DO THAT, HE HAS TO SURVIVE THE MAZE... AND THEN STOP THE ANIMATOR!
THEN I'M GOING WITH HIM!
ME, TOO!
AWRIGHT! WE'LL ALL DO IT! WE'LL SAVE 'EM.
NO PROBLEM! THEN ILLYANA CAN TELEPORT THEM BACK TO THE SCHOOL WITH US!
YEAH! MAGNETO'S PROBABLY ALREADY NOTICED WE'RE GONE. SO WE'RE IN TROUBLE ALREADY!
SO WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOMETHIN' TA SHOW FOR IT!
AND WE CAN'T LET LITTLE ANIMAL-KIDS DIE!
DIE HOW? SO FAR, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYBODY DIE! 'CEPT NEARLY US!
NOT THAT IT OUGHTA BE A PROBLEM! WE HAVE POWERS!
YEAH! WE CAN HANDLE MOST ANY SITUATION!
WAIT THERE, BRIGHTWIND! WE'LL BE BACK IN PROBABLY 'BOUT AN HOUR!
A MAZE, FOR PETE'S SAKE! WINDING TUNNELS AND SCARY TRAPS AN' STUFF! HONESTLY...!
NO KIDDING! HOW ARCHAIC CAN YOU...?
...oh...

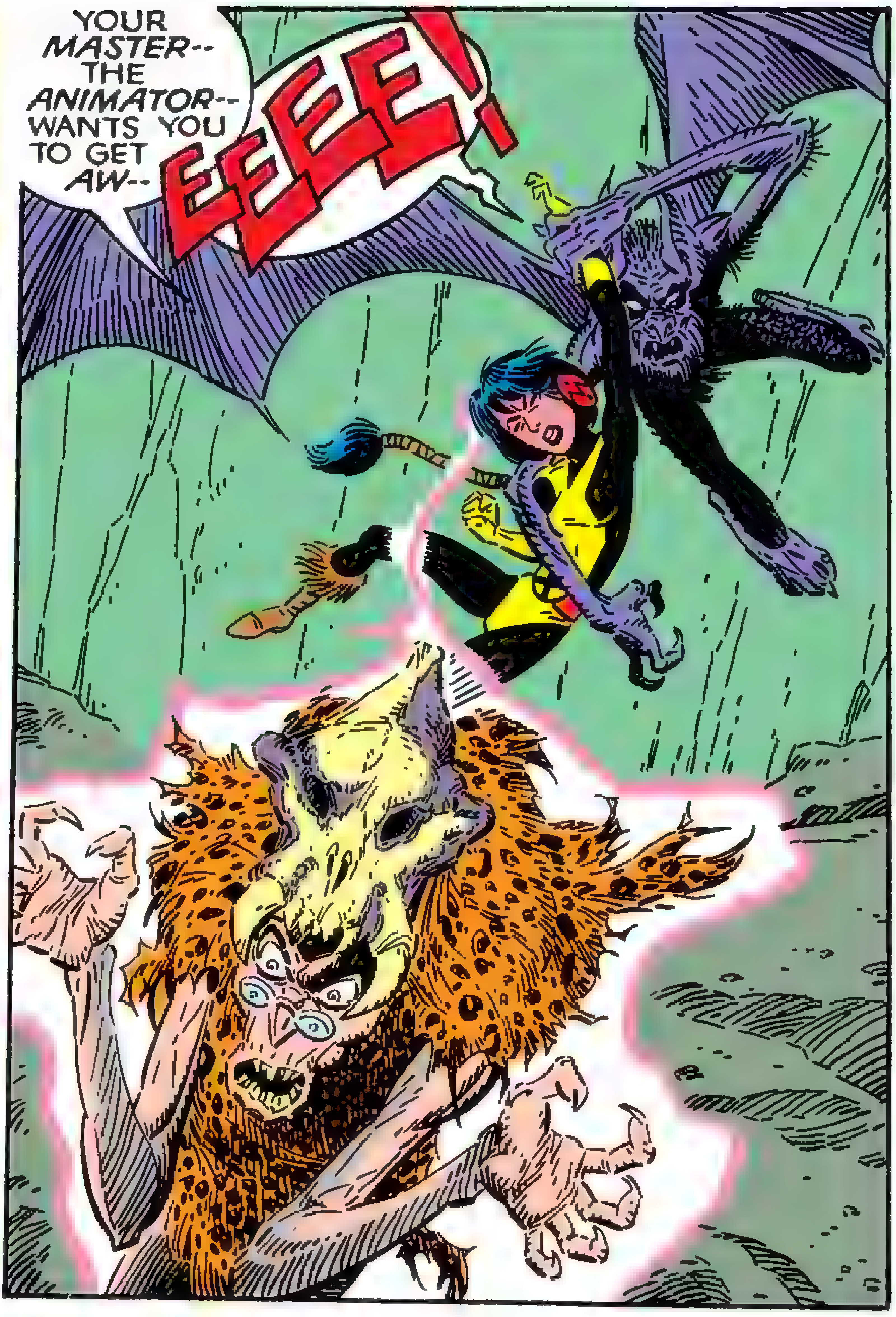

YA KNOW, GUYS, WE COULD USE SOME MORE *LIGHT!*
MAYBE THIS MAZE STUFF AIN'T AS DIPPY AS AH THOUGHT!
AHHH!
RUMBLE!
Awk- DOUG!
SNAP!
THIS MAY ACTUALLY BE *DANGEROUS!*
AAH-HAWWWW!
WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING *NICE!*
WE BETTER CATCH UP WITH THE ANIMAL GUYS! BUT *BE CAREFUL!*
WHO KNOWS WHAT *OTHER* TRAPS--
OH. Oh... *NO!*
HE... *HE'S* WHAT SCREAMED! THE POOR, TORTURED *CREATURE.* GOD REST HIS SOUL!
Squaw- WHAT?
IT'S CALLED *PRAYING,* BIRD-BRAIN! PEOPLE DO IT FOR LOTS OF REASONS... BUT ONE IS TO HONOR THE SOULS OF THE *DEAD!*
SAD-awk! FRIEND!

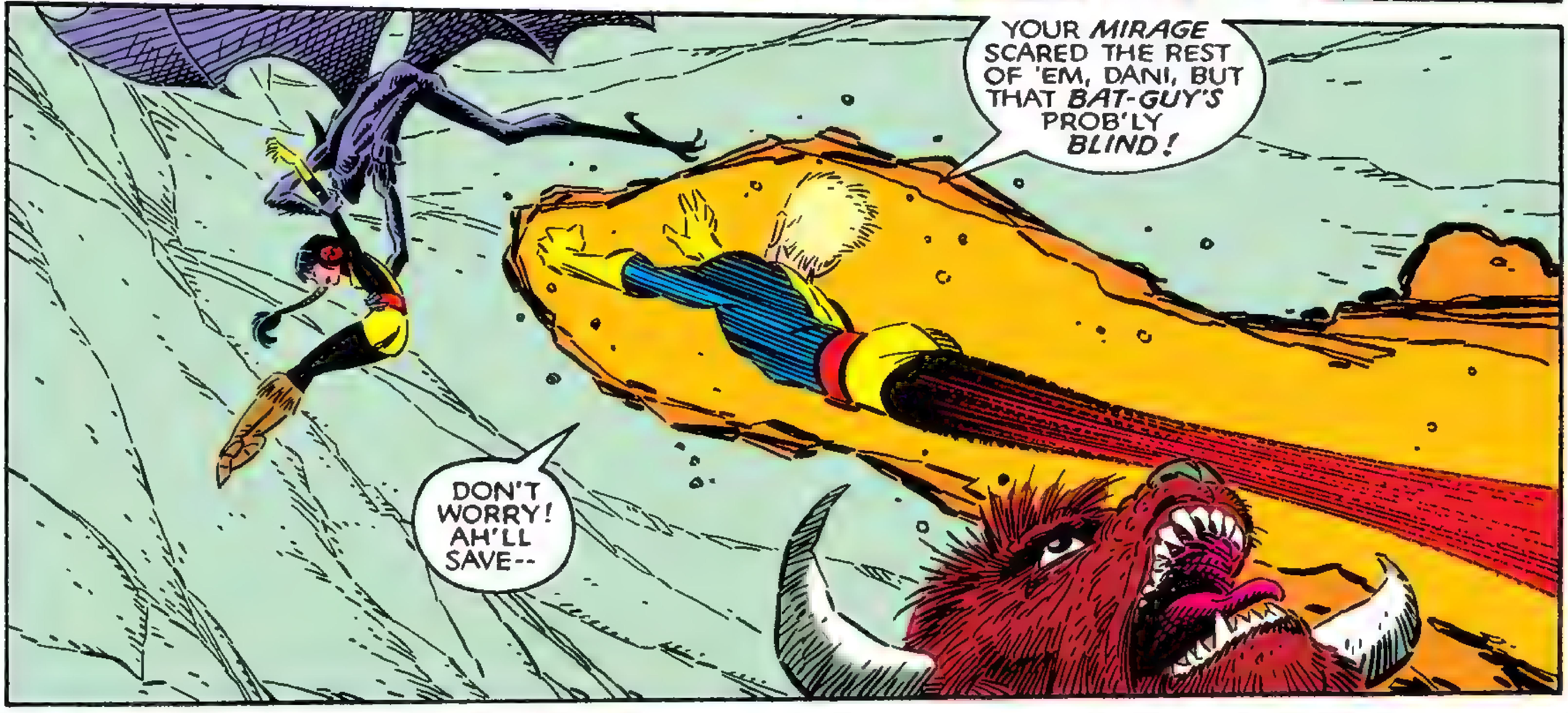
SCREEEEEE
OMIGOSH!
WHAT WAS THAT?
TROUBLE!
IT CAME FROM OVER THERE!
THIS MAZE IS NO JOKE!
YEAH! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH DEAD ANIMAL-PEOPLE!
WE GOTTA CATCH UP WITH THE OTHERS 'FORE IT'S TOO--
HEY! LOOK! THERE'S NOTHING HERE! IT'S A DEAD END!
SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!
You WISSSSSH!

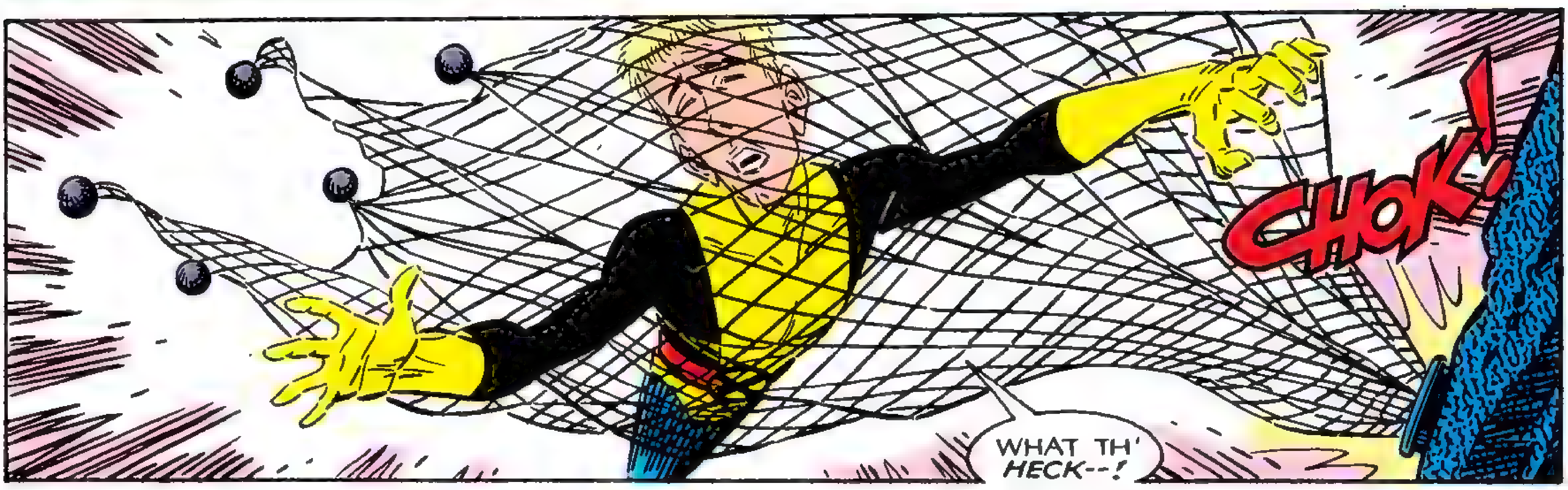
LOOK! MAGIK'S SOUL-SWORD FLASHED HERE FROM LIMBO! I THOUGHT IT WAS STUCK THERE! THIS PLACE MUST BE DANGEROUS!
THOK!
I COULD 'PORT US HOME, SAM, MONSTERS AN' ALL! MAGNETO HELPED ME ONCE IN LIMBO! HE'S GOOD AGAINST MONSTERS!
GO CRAWLING HOME FOR HELP? NO WAY!
WE'RE HERE TO STOP THE BAD GUYS... AND HERE THEY ARE!

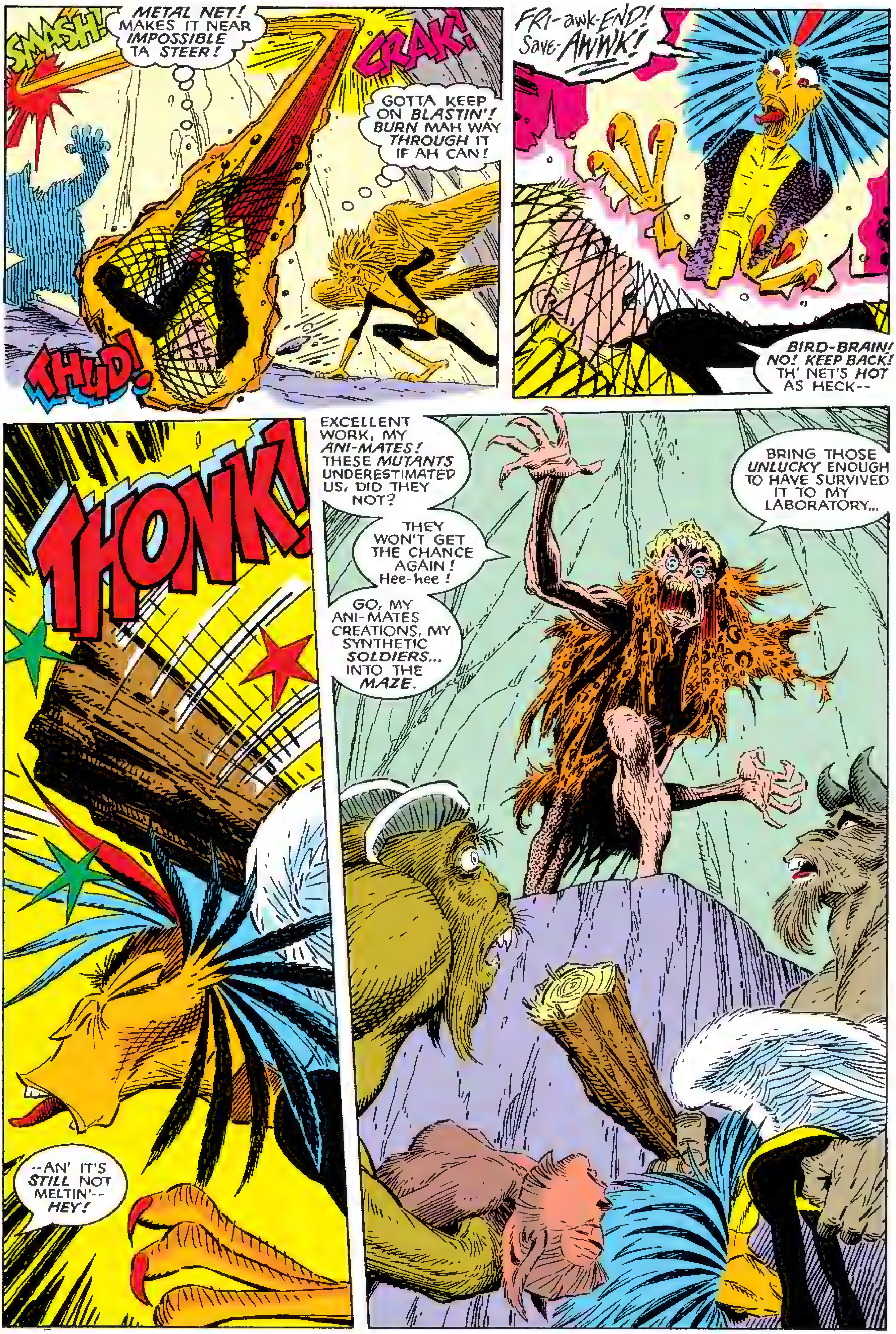

SQUAWK!
CRAK!
WATCH IT, GUYS! THERE'S MORE OF 'EM!
ILLYANA-- THE GROUND!
LOOK OUT!
IT'S POISON...
...GAS!
CLANG!


WOLFSBANE! BIRD-BRAIN!
NO! GET AWAY FROM THEM!
THOK?


YOUR MASTER-- THE ANIMATOR-- WANTS YOU TO GET AW--
EEEE!

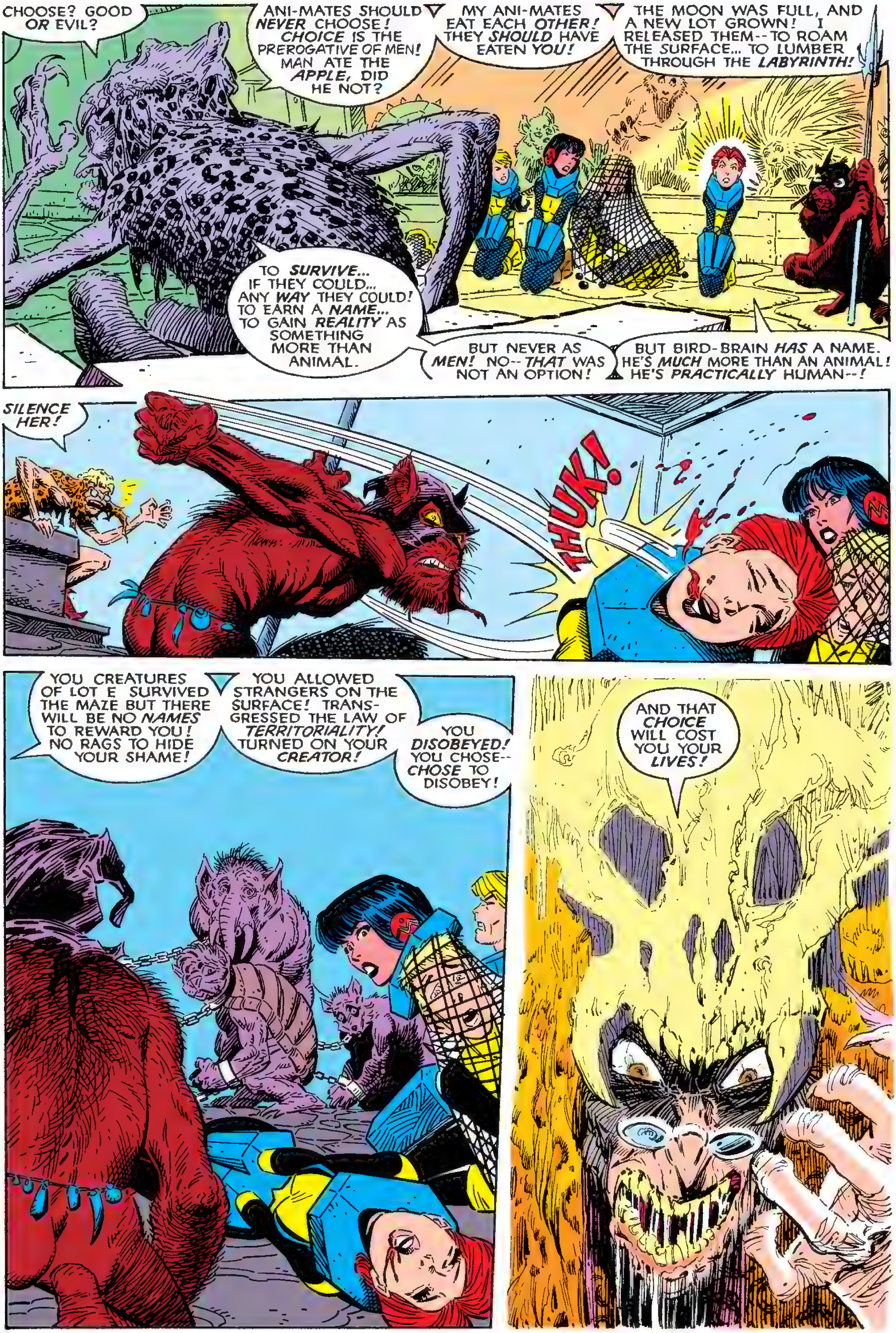

YOUR MIRAGE SCARED THE REST OF 'EM, DANI, BUT THAT BAT-GUY'S PROB'LY BLIND!
DON'T WORRY! AH'LL SAVE--

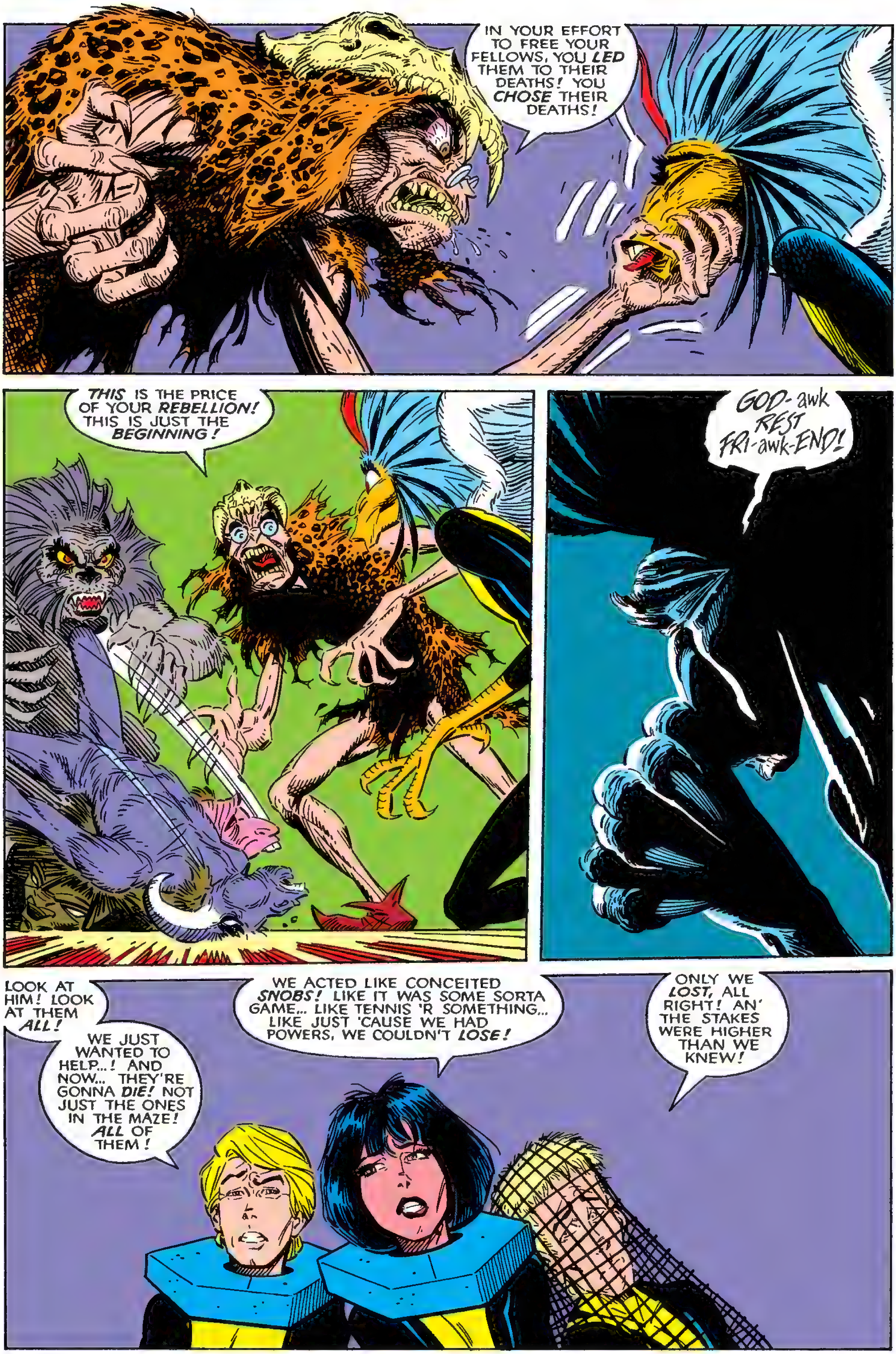

CHOK!
WHAT TH' HECK--!


SMASH!
METAL NET! MAKES IT NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TA STEER!
CRAK!
GOTTA KEEP ON BLASTIN'! BURN MAH WAY THROUGH IT IF AH CAN!
THUD!
FRI-awk-END! Save-AWWK!
BIRD-BRAIN! NO! KEEP BACK! TH' NET'S HOT AS HECK--
THONK!
--AN' IT'S STILL NOT MELTIN'-- HEY!
EXCELLENT WORK, MY ANI-MATES! THESE MUTANTS UNDERESTIMATED US, DID THEY NOT?
THEY WON'T GET THE CHANCE AGAIN! Hee-hee!
GO, MY ANI-MATES CREATIONS, MY SYNTHETIC SOLDIERS... INTO THE MAZE.
BRING THOSE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE SURVIVED IT TO MY LABORATORY...

"...WHERE WE WILL *USE* THEM, WILL WE NOT, TO DEMONSTRATE THE WAGES OF REBELLION?!"
PRISONERS! PRISONERS! WHO'S GOT THE *PRISONERS!*
I! AYE!
LOT F
LOT G
AN *EYE* FOR AN EYE! THAT'S WHAT WE'LL HAVE!
THAT GUY'S A CARD-CARRYING *LUNATIC!*
AND WE'RE *MUTANTS*. WE HAVE *POWERS*.
AN' WE LET OURSELVES BE CAPTURED BY THAT COCONUT AND A BUNCH A' DUMB ANIMALS.
THEY ARE *NOT* DUMB, SAM GUTHRIE! AT LEAST, *BIRD-BRAIN* ISN'T DUMB AND NEITHER ARE HIS *FRIENDS*.
THEY JUST THINK DIFFERENTLY THAN PEOPLE DO. AND THEY WERE SMART ENOUGH TO CAPTURE *US!*
Masss-ter! Your ssslavesss...!
HeRRRe! -SNORT!- TRRR-aitoRRRs!
Ah! AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, MY BIRD-BOY? YOU, OF *ALL* OF THEM-- THE *ZENITH* OF MY CREATIONS!
YOU... IN YOUR FANCY *CLOTHES*... AND YOUR-- WHY... I SUPPOSE THEY'VE GIVEN YOU A *NAME?*
BIRD-awk-*BRAIN!*

SILENCE! WHO TAUGHT YOU TO SPEAK? WHO GAVE YOU WORDS? A NAME? A NAME, INDEED!
YOU... AN ACCIDENT! A GENE-SPLICED NOTHING. CUT IN HALF. SEWN TOGETHER. DUAL NATURES ETERNALLY DUELING...
...YOU DARE TO SPEAK? AND SPEAK A NAME?
YOU HAVE NO NAME!
TO EARN A NAME YOU MUST KNOW EVIL. TO KNOW EVIL-- IS TO BECOME A MAN.
THE BIBLE... THE BIBLE TELLS US SO... hee-hee! OF SERPENTS... EVIL SERPENTS... HE HAD A NAME, DIDN'T HE... AND WORDS, HE HAD!
AND APPLES... LUSCIOUS APPLES...! PERHAPS YOU'RE HUNGRY...?
NO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT GENESIS, AREN'T YOU? AND ADAM AND EVE.
THEY ATE THE APPLE, BUT IT GAVE THEM KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL!
MY CHURCH SAYS IT'S SO PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE GOOD AUTOMATICALLY! IT MEANT THEY HAD TO CHOOSE TO BE!
RAHNE, AH DON'T THINK THE MAD SCIENTIST IS READY TA DEBATE THE FINE POINTS O' SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION!


CHOOSE? GOOD *OR* EVIL?
ANI-MATES SHOULD *NEVER* CHOOSE! *CHOICE* IS THE PREROGATIVE OF MEN! MAN ATE THE *APPLE*, DID HE NOT?
MY ANI-MATES EAT EACH *OTHER!* THEY *SHOULD* HAVE EATEN *YOU!*
THE MOON WAS FULL, AND A NEW LOT GROWN! I RELEASED THEM--TO ROAM THE SURFACE... TO LUMBER THROUGH THE *LABYRINTH!*
TO *SURVIVE*... IF THEY COULD... ANY *WAY* THEY COULD! TO EARN A *NAME*... TO GAIN *REALITY* AS SOMETHING MORE THAN ANIMAL.
BUT NEVER AS *MEN!* NO--*THAT* WAS NOT AN OPTION!
BUT BIRD-BRAIN *HAS* A NAME. HE'S *MUCH* MORE THAN AN ANIMAL! HE'S *PRACTICALLY* HUMAN--!
SILENCE HER!
THUK!
YOU CREATURES OF LOT E SURVIVED THE MAZE BUT THERE WILL BE NO *NAMES* TO REWARD YOU! NO RAGS TO HIDE YOUR SHAME!
YOU ALLOWED STRANGERS ON THE SURFACE! TRANSGRESSED THE LAW OF *TERRITORIALITY!* TURNED ON YOUR *CREATOR!*
YOU *DISOBEYED!* YOU CHOSE-- *CHOSE* TO DISOBEY!
AND THAT *CHOICE* WILL COST YOU YOUR *LIVES!*


IN YOUR EFFORT TO FREE YOUR FELLOWS, YOU *LED* THEM TO THEIR DEATHS! YOU *CHOSE* THEIR DEATHS!
THIS IS THE PRICE OF YOUR *REBELLION!* THIS IS JUST THE *BEGINNING!*
GOD-awk REST FRI-awk-END!
LOOK AT HIM! LOOK AT THEM *ALL!*
WE JUST WANTED TO HELP...! AND NOW... THEY'RE GONNA *DIE!* NOT JUST THE ONES IN THE MAZE! *ALL* OF THEM!
WE ACTED LIKE CONCEITED *SNOBS!* LIKE IT WAS SOME SORTA GAME... LIKE TENNIS 'R SOMETHING... LIKE JUST 'CAUSE WE HAD POWERS, WE COULDN'T *LOSE!*
ONLY WE *LOST,* ALL RIGHT! AN' THE STAKES WERE HIGHER THAN WE KNEW!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING... SAYING...
...WEARING?
RRIPPP
CLOTHES ARE FOR DECORATION-- FOR PRIDE, FOR SHAME-- FOR THOSE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF EVIL!
CLOTHES ARE NOT FOR YOU! CLOTHES MAKE A MAN! AND YOU ARE NOTHING BUT AN ANIMAL!
TAKE THESE MONSTERS AWAY... AND DESTROY THEM!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE WORST IS YET TO COME!

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TM
THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS
THE NEW MUTANTS®
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
60
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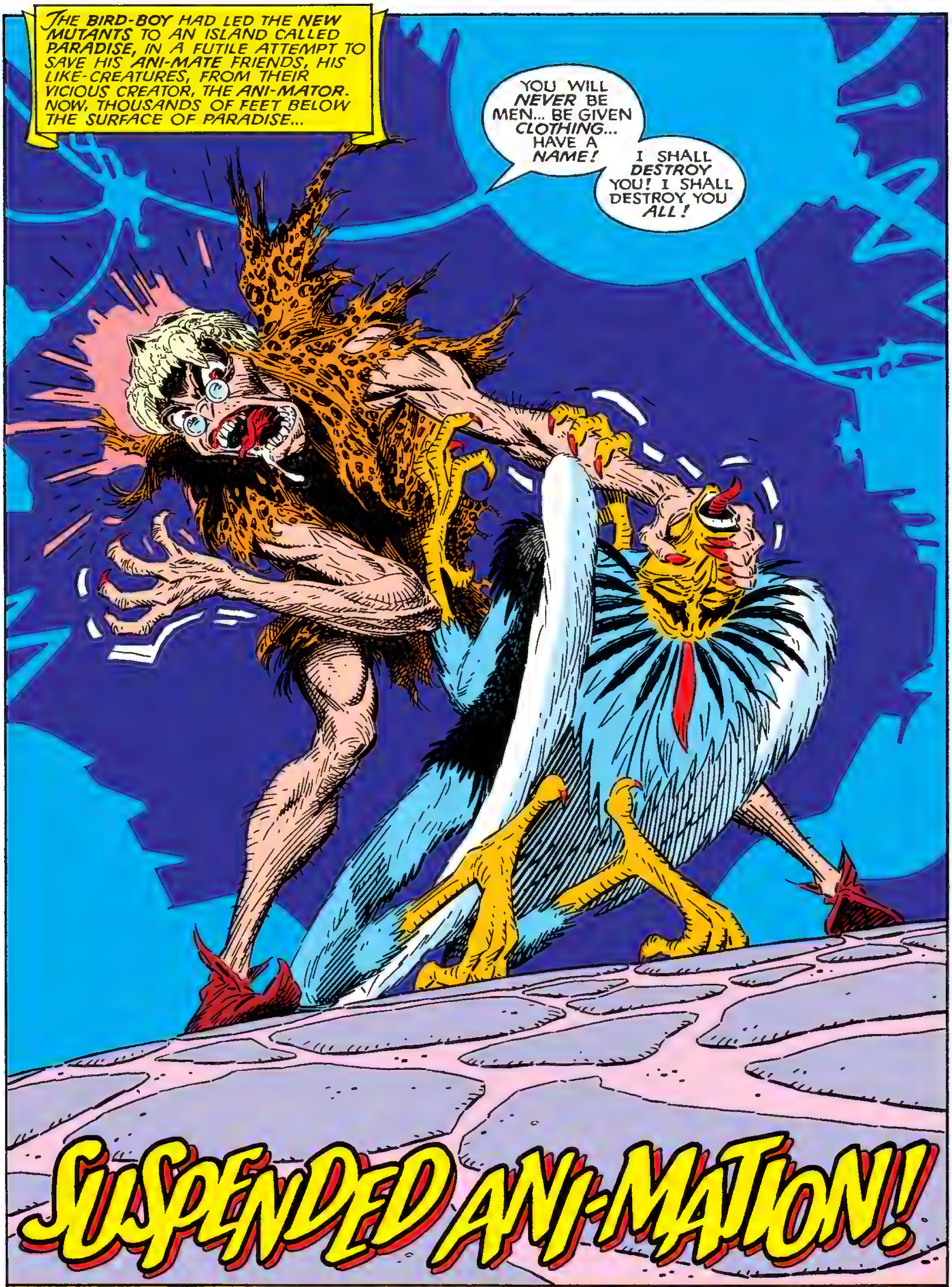
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!


THE BIRD-BOY HAD LED THE NEW MUTANTS TO AN ISLAND CALLED PARADISE, IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS ANI-MATE FRIENDS, HIS LIKE-CREATURES, FROM THEIR VICIOUS CREATOR, THE ANI-MATOR. NOW, THOUSANDS OF FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF PARADISE...
YOU WILL NEVER BE MEN... BE GIVEN CLOTHING... HAVE A NAME!
I SHALL DESTROY YOU! I SHALL DESTROY YOU ALL!
SUSPENDED ANI-MATION!

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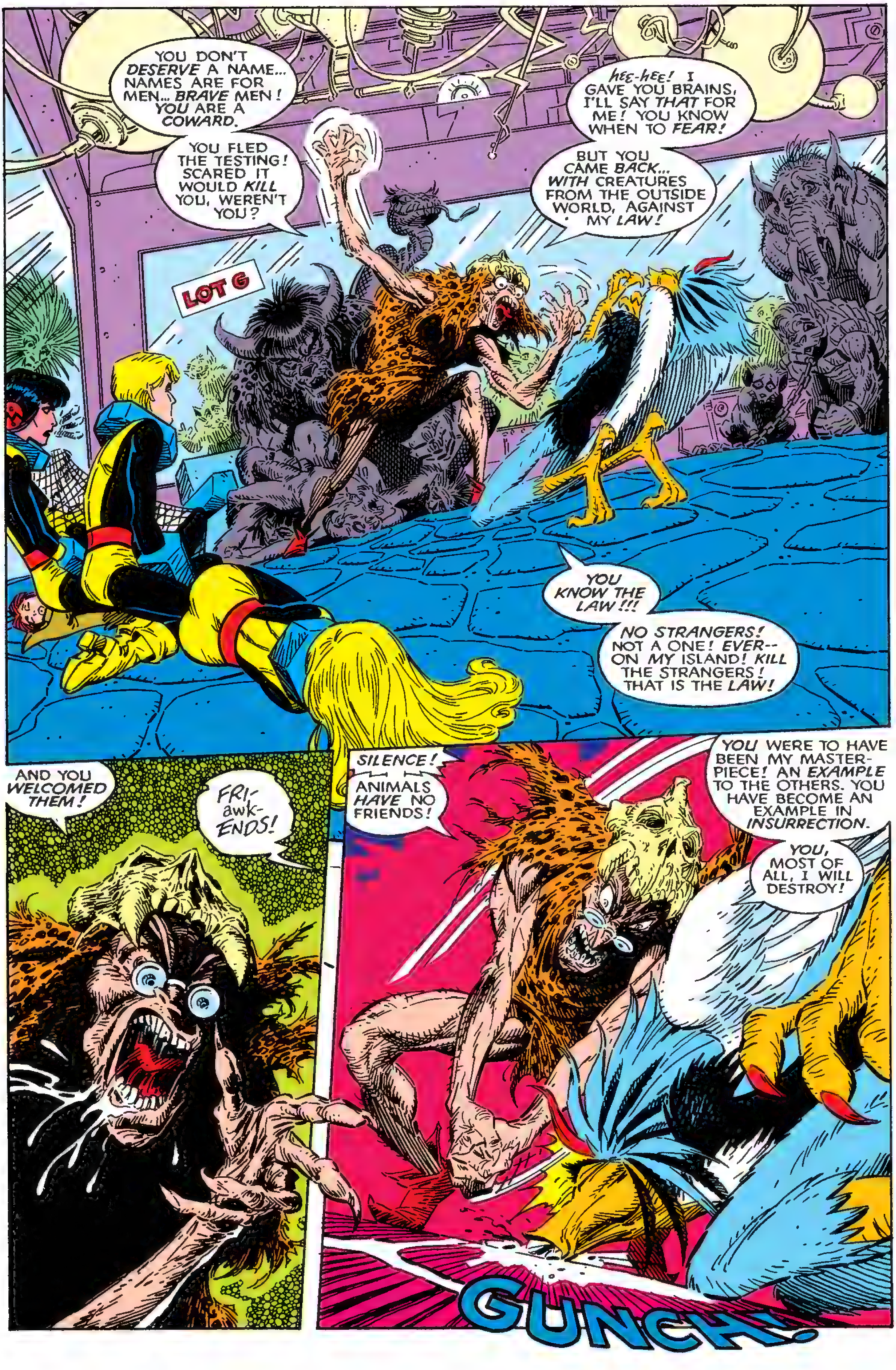
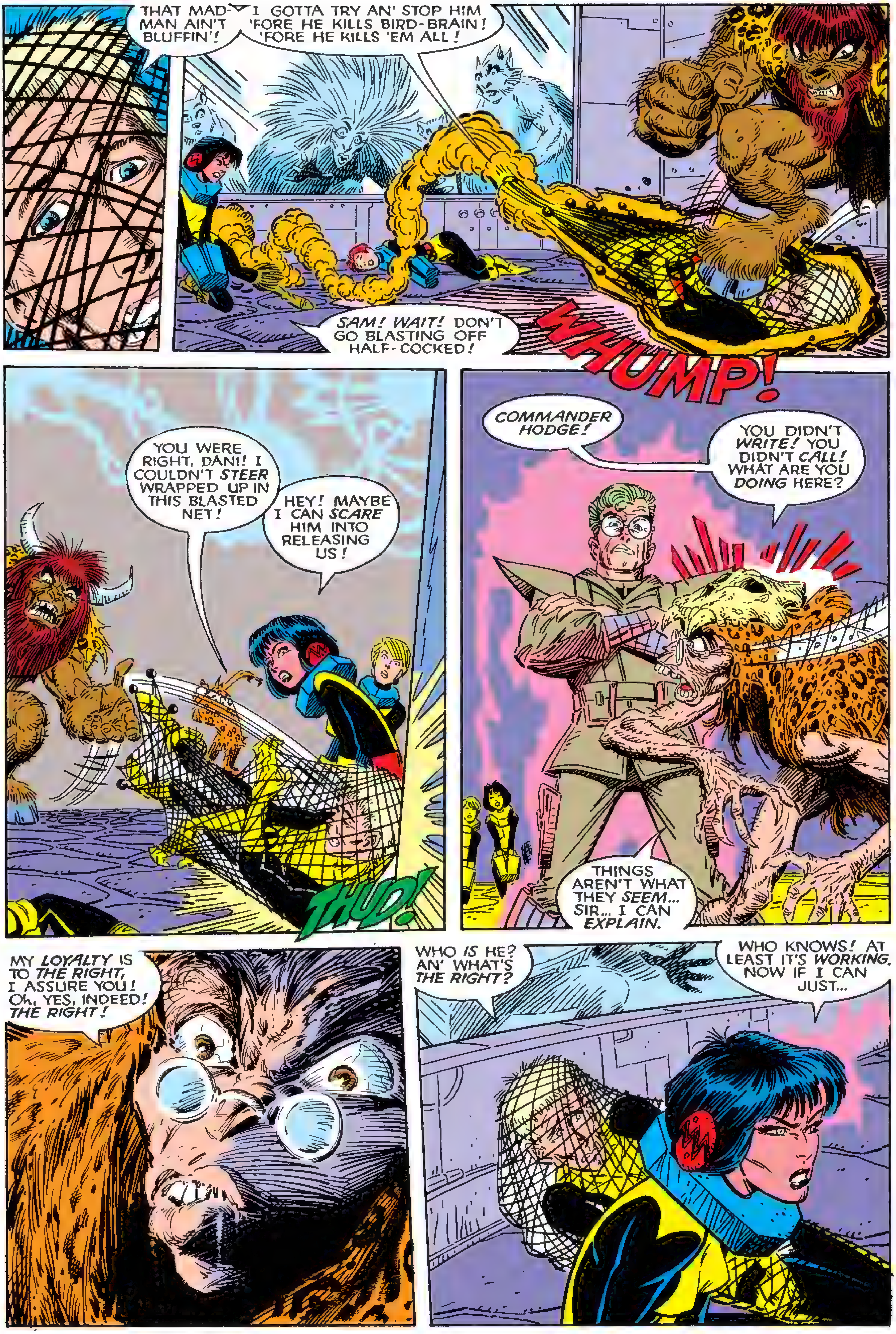
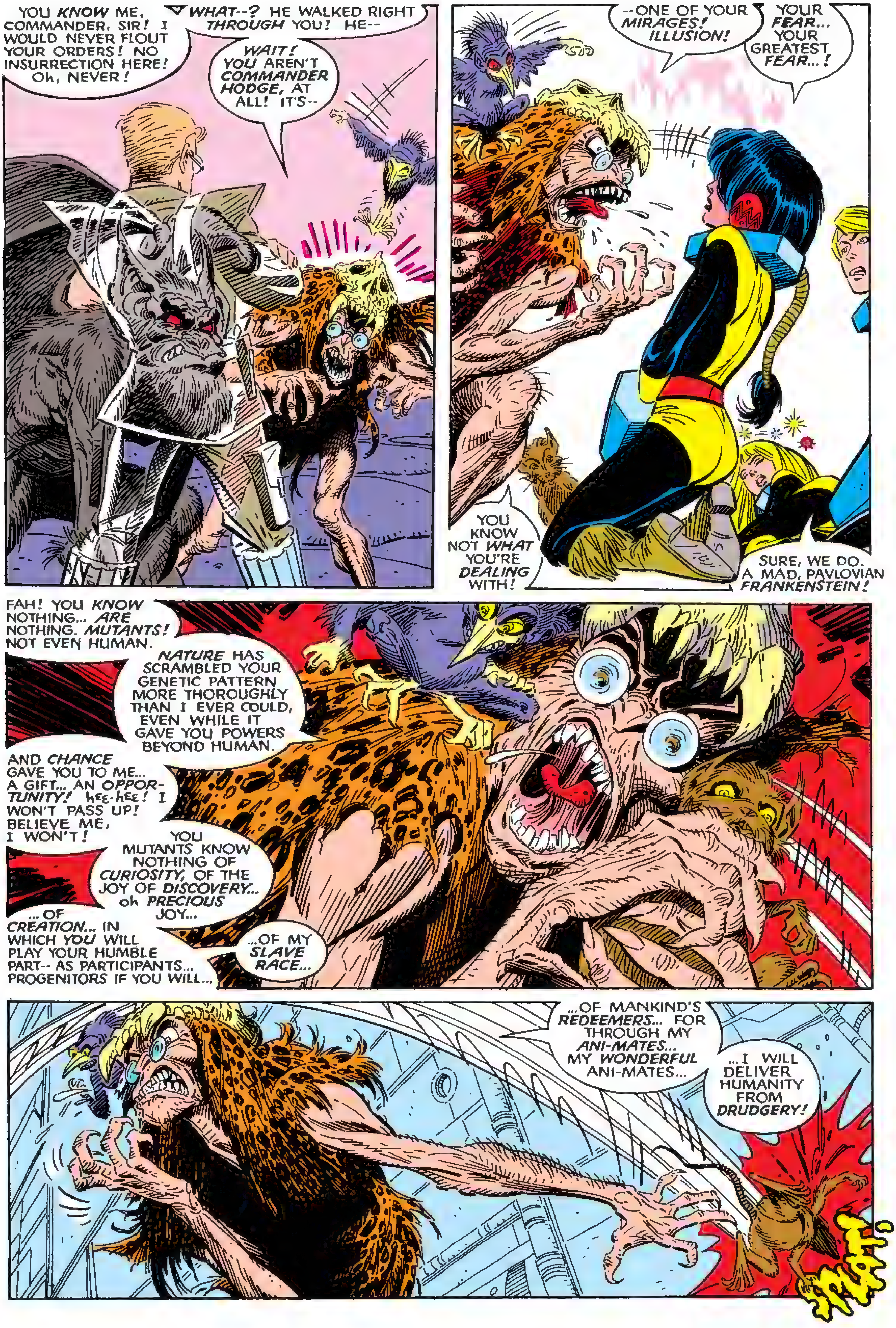
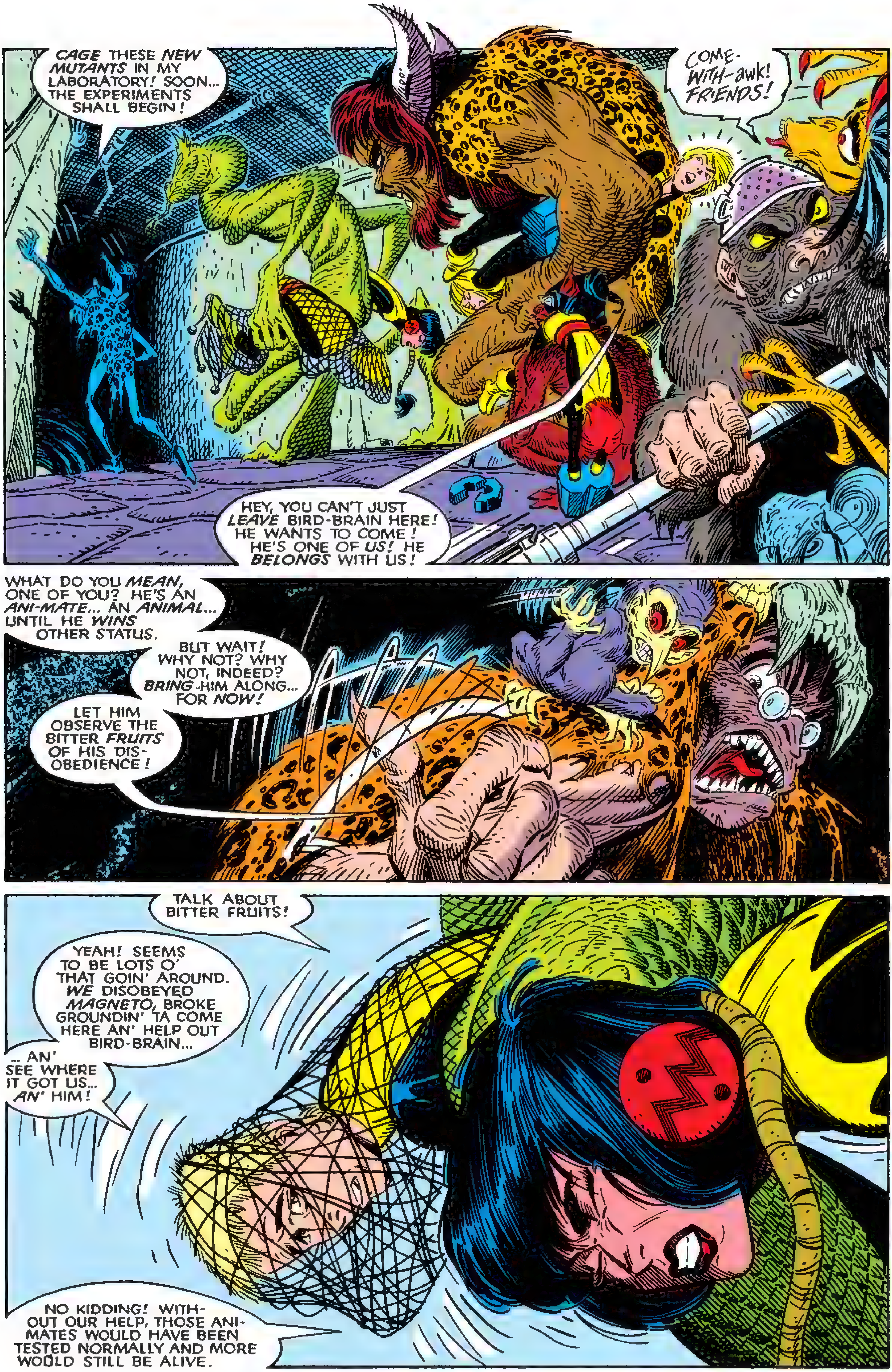
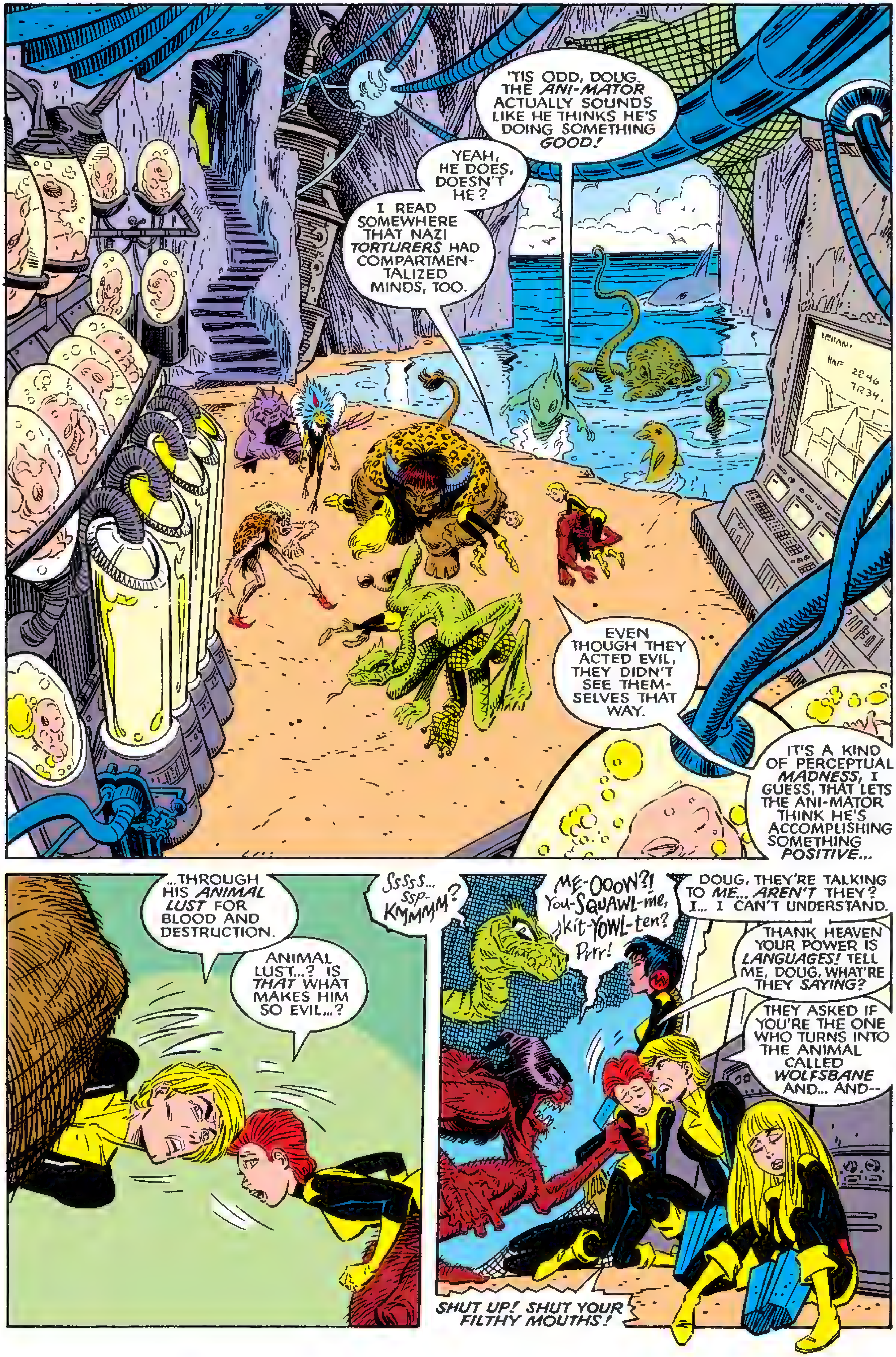
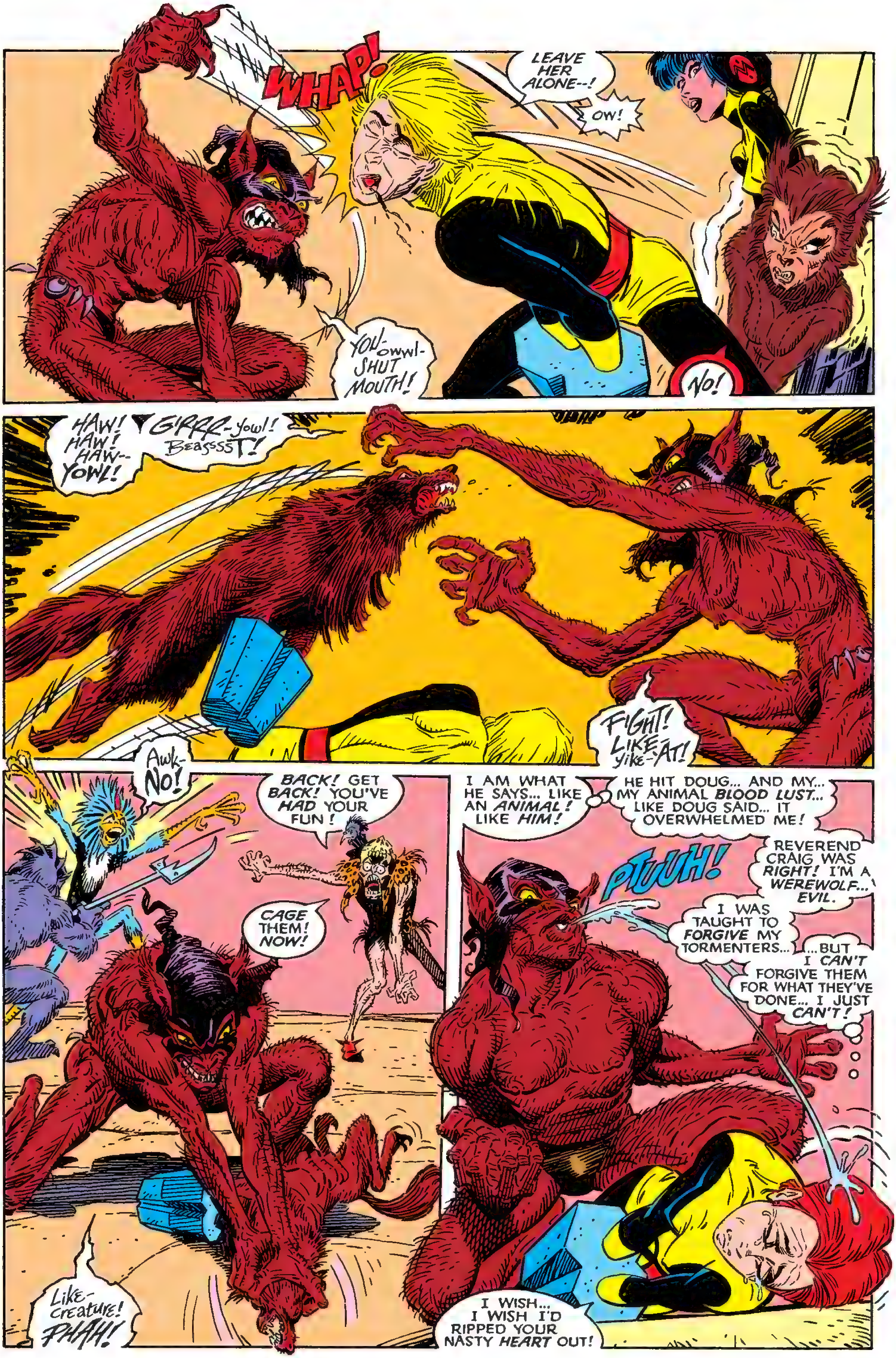

YOU DON'T *DESERVE* A NAME... NAMES ARE FOR MEN... *BRAVE* MEN! *YOU* ARE A *COWARD.*
YOU FLED THE TESTING! SCARED IT WOULD *KILL* YOU, WEREN'T YOU?
LOT G
hee-hee! I GAVE YOU BRAINS, I'LL SAY *THAT* FOR ME! YOU KNOW WHEN TO *FEAR!*
BUT YOU CAME *BACK*... *WITH* CREATURES FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AGAINST MY *LAW!*
YOU KNOW THE LAW!!!
NO STRANGERS! NOT A ONE! *EVER*-- ON *MY* ISLAND! *KILL* THE STRANGERS! THAT IS THE *LAW!*
AND YOU *WELCOMED THEM!*
FRI-awk-ENDS!
SILENCE!
ANIMALS *HAVE* NO FRIENDS!
YOU WERE TO HAVE BEEN MY MASTERPIECE! AN *EXAMPLE* TO THE OTHERS. YOU HAVE BECOME AN EXAMPLE IN *INSURRECTION.*
YOU, MOST OF ALL, I WILL DESTROY!
GUNCH!

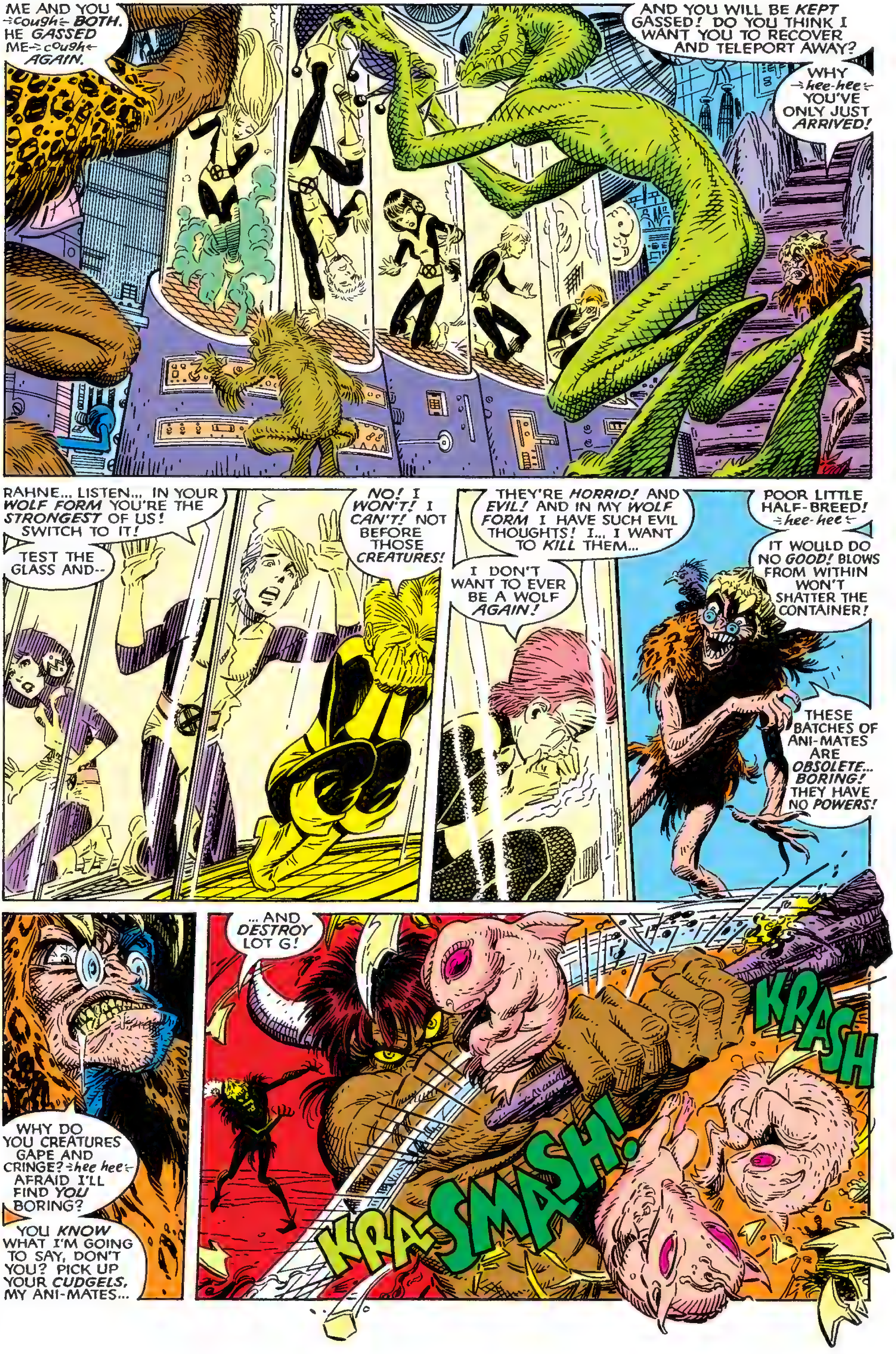

THAT MAD-MAN AIN'T BLUFFIN'!
I GOTTA TRY AN' STOP HIM 'FORE HE KILLS BIRD-BRAIN! 'FORE HE KILLS 'EM ALL!
SAM! WAIT! DON'T GO BLASTING OFF HALF-COCKED!
WHUMP!
YOU WERE RIGHT, DANI! I COULDN'T STEER WRAPPED UP IN THIS BLASTED NET!
HEY! MAYBE I CAN SCARE HIM INTO RELEASING US!
THUD!
COMMANDER HODGE!
YOU DIDN'T WRITE! YOU DIDN'T CALL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THINGS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM... SIR... I CAN EXPLAIN.
MY LOYALTY IS TO THE RIGHT, I ASSURE YOU! Oh, YES, INDEED! THE RIGHT!
WHO IS HE? AN' WHAT'S THE RIGHT?
WHO KNOWS! AT LEAST IT'S WORKING. NOW IF I CAN JUST...

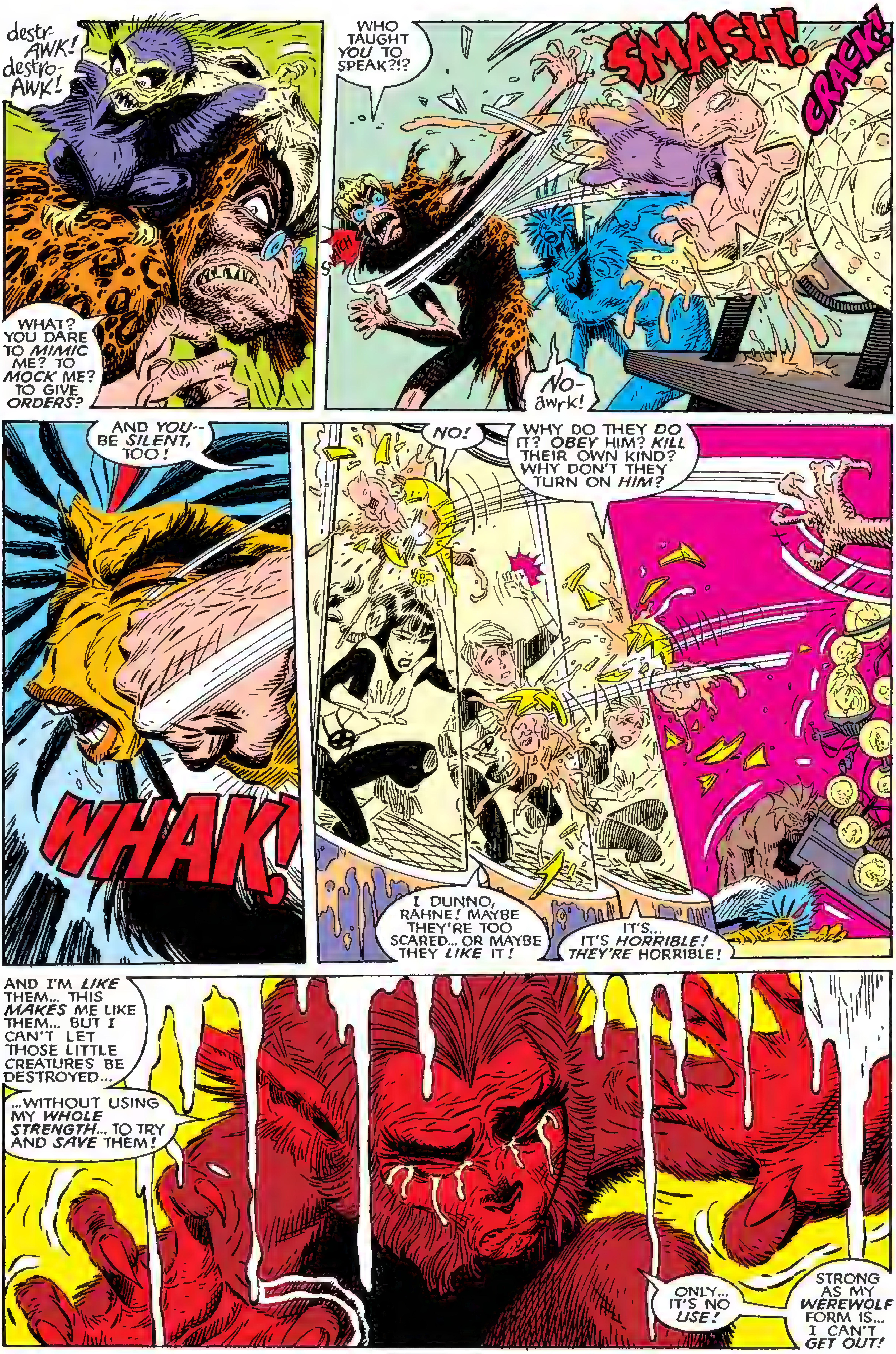

YOU KNOW ME, COMMANDER, SIR! I WOULD NEVER FLOUT YOUR ORDERS! NO INSURRECTION HERE! Oh, NEVER!
WHAT--? HE WALKED RIGHT THROUGH YOU! HE--
WAIT! YOU AREN'T COMMANDER HODGE, AT ALL! IT'S--
--ONE OF YOUR MIRAGES! ILLUSION!
YOUR FEAR... YOUR GREATEST FEAR...!
YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
SURE, WE DO. A MAD, PAVLOVIAN FRANKENSTEIN!
FAH! YOU KNOW NOTHING... ARE NOTHING. MUTANTS! NOT EVEN HUMAN.
NATURE HAS SCRAMBLED YOUR GENETIC PATTERN MORE THOROUGHLY THAN I EVER COULD, EVEN WHILE IT GAVE YOU POWERS BEYOND HUMAN.
AND CHANCE GAVE YOU TO ME... A GIFT... AN OPPORTUNITY! hee-hee! I WON'T PASS UP! BELIEVE ME, I WON'T!
YOU MUTANTS KNOW NOTHING OF CURIOSITY, OF THE JOY OF DISCOVERY... oh PRECIOUS JOY...
...OF CREATION... IN WHICH YOU WILL PLAY YOUR HUMBLE PART-- AS PARTICIPANTS... PROGENITORS IF YOU WILL...
...OF MY SLAVE RACE...
...OF MANKIND'S REDEEMERS... FOR THROUGH MY ANI-MATES... MY WONDERFUL ANI-MATES...
...I WILL DELIVER HUMANITY FROM DRUDGERY!
SPLAT!

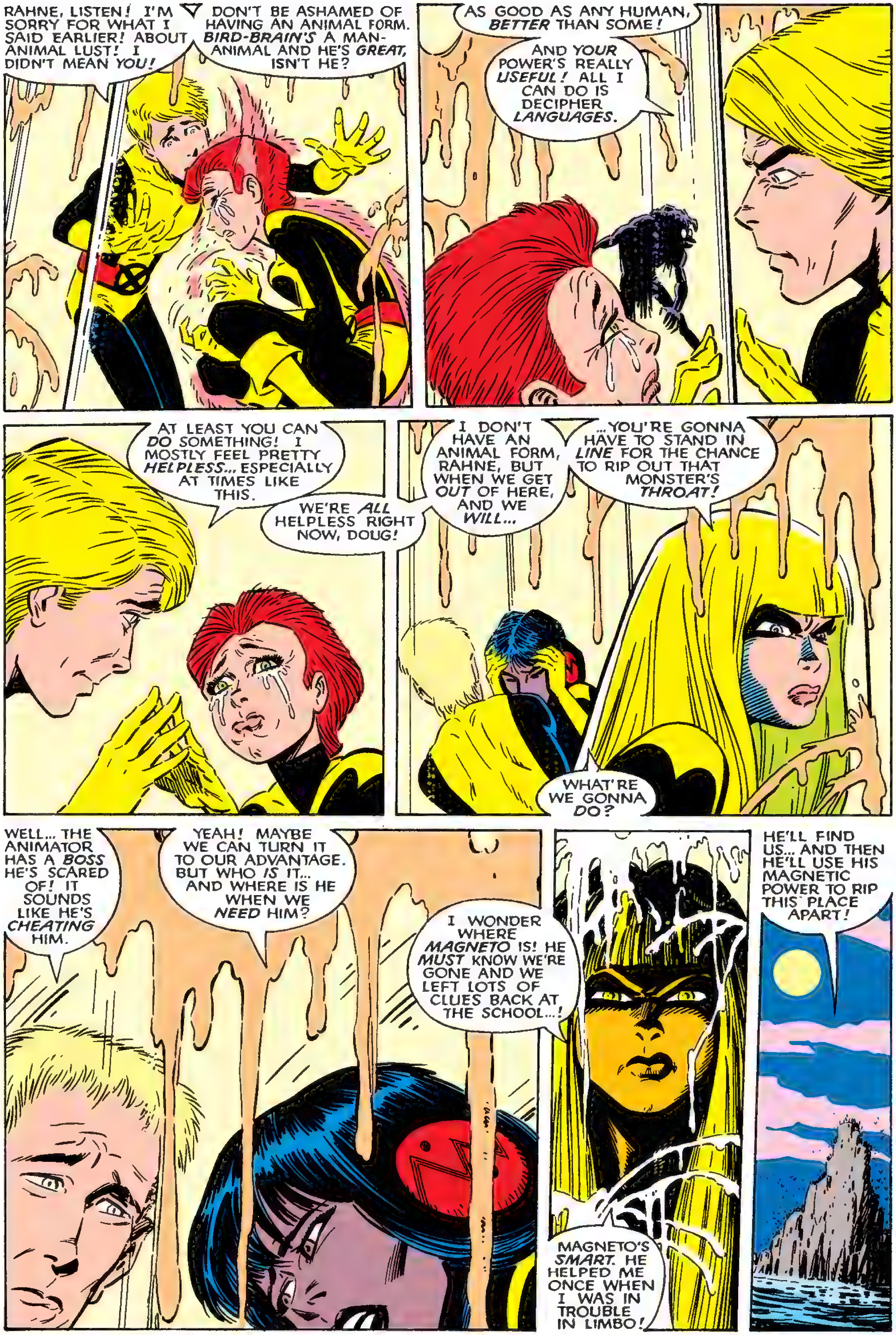

CAGE THESE NEW MUTANTS IN MY LABORATORY! SOON... THE EXPERIMENTS SHALL BEGIN!
COME-WITH-awk! FRIENDS!
HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE BIRD-BRAIN HERE! HE WANTS TO COME! HE'S ONE OF US! HE BELONGS WITH US!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ONE OF YOU? HE'S AN ANI-MATE... AN ANIMAL... UNTIL HE WINS OTHER STATUS.
BUT WAIT! WHY NOT? WHY NOT, INDEED? BRING HIM ALONG... FOR NOW!
LET HIM OBSERVE THE BITTER FRUITS OF HIS DISOBEDIENCE!
TALK ABOUT BITTER FRUITS!
YEAH! SEEMS TO BE LOTS O' THAT GOIN' AROUND. WE DISOBEYED MAGNETO, BROKE GROUNDIN' TA COME HERE AN' HELP OUT BIRD-BRAIN...
... AN' SEE WHERE IT GOT US... AN' HIM!
NO KIDDING! WITHOUT OUR HELP, THOSE ANIMATES WOULD HAVE BEEN TESTED NORMALLY AND MORE WOULD STILL BE ALIVE.

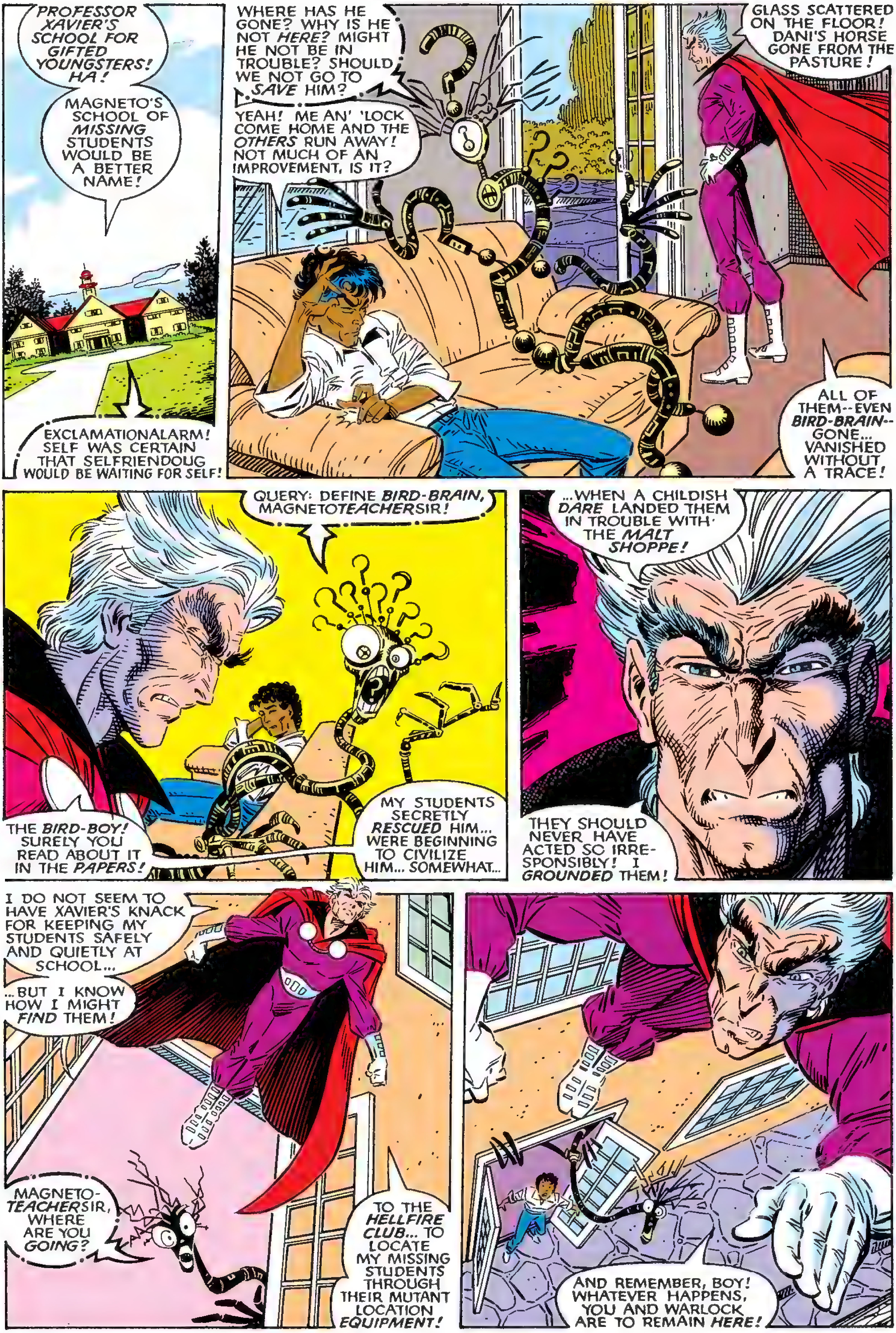

'TIS ODD, DOUG. THE *ANI-MATOR* ACTUALLY SOUNDS LIKE HE THINKS HE'S DOING SOMETHING *GOOD!*
YEAH, HE DOES, DOESN'T HE?
I READ SOMEWHERE THAT NAZI *TORTURERS* HAD COMPARTMENTALIZED MINDS, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH THEY ACTED EVIL, THEY DIDN'T SEE THEMSELVES THAT WAY.
IT'S A KIND OF PERCEPTUAL *MADNESS,* I GUESS, THAT LETS THE ANI-MATOR THINK HE'S ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING *POSITIVE...*
...THROUGH HIS *ANIMAL LUST* FOR BLOOD AND DESTRUCTION.
ANIMAL LUST...? IS *THAT* WHAT MAKES HIM SO EVIL...?
Sssss... ssp-KMMMM?
ME-OOOW?! You-SQUAWL-me, kit-YOWL-ten? Prrr!
DOUG, THEY'RE TALKING TO *ME... AREN'T* THEY? I... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
THANK HEAVEN YOUR POWER IS *LANGUAGES!* TELL ME, DOUG, WHAT'RE THEY *SAYING?*
THEY ASKED IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TURNS INTO THE ANIMAL CALLED *WOLFSBANE* AND... AND--
SHUT UP! SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTHS!

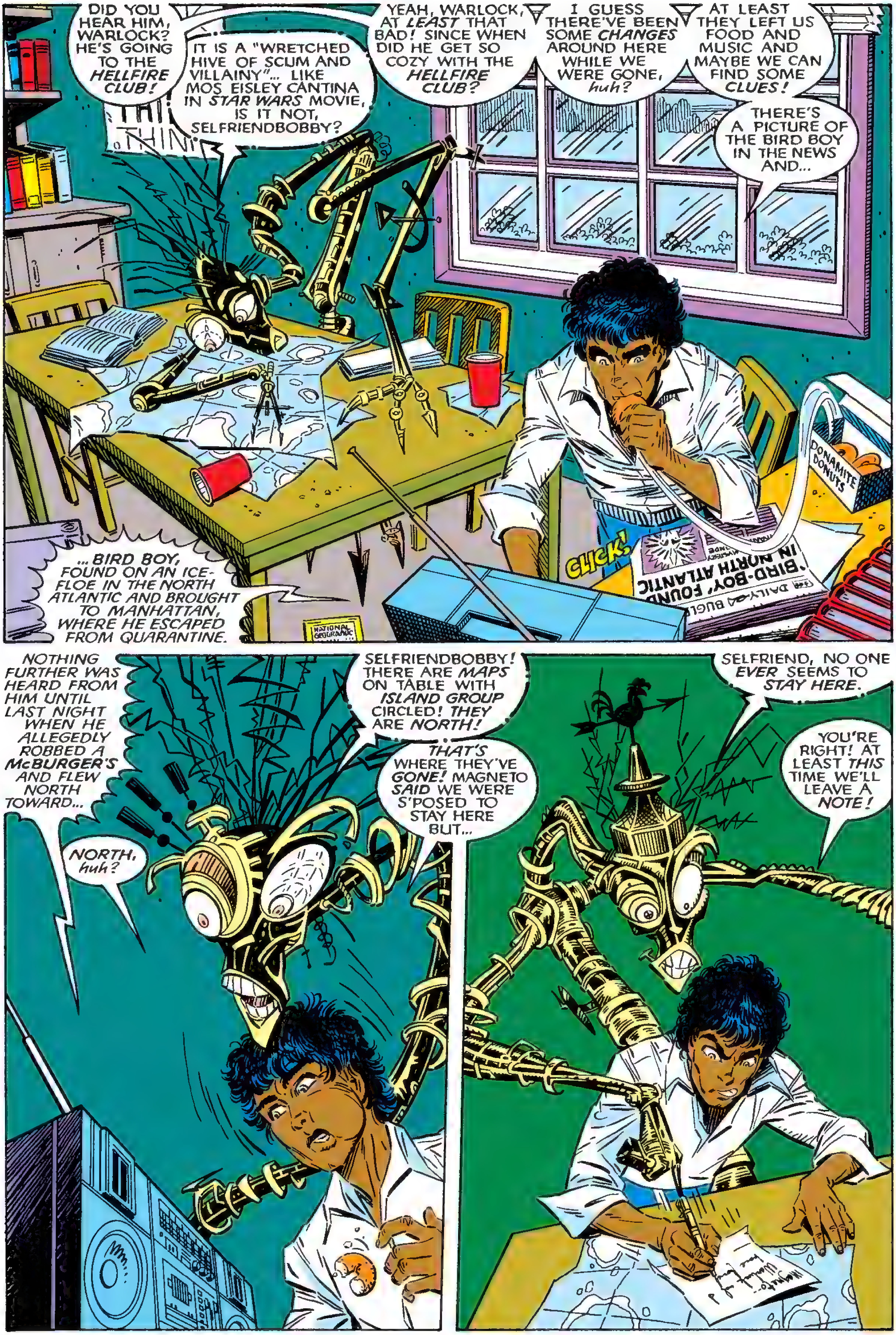

WHAP!
LEAVE HER ALONE--!
OW!
YOU-owwl-SHUT MOUTH!
NO!
HAW! HAW! HAW-- YOWL!
GRRR-yowl! BeasssT!
FIGHT! LIKE yike-AT!
Awk-No!
BACK! GET BACK! YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN!
CAGE THEM! NOW!
Like-creature! PHAH!
I AM WHAT HE SAYS... LIKE AN ANIMAL! LIKE HIM!
HE HIT DOUG... AND MY... MY ANIMAL BLOOD LUST... LIKE DOUG SAID... IT OVERWHELMED ME!
PTUUH!
REVEREND CRAIG WAS RIGHT! I'M A WEREWOLF... EVIL.
I WAS TAUGHT TO FORGIVE MY TORMENTERS...
...BUT I CAN'T FORGIVE THEM FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE... I JUST CAN'T!
I WISH... I WISH I'D RIPPED YOUR NASTY HEART OUT!

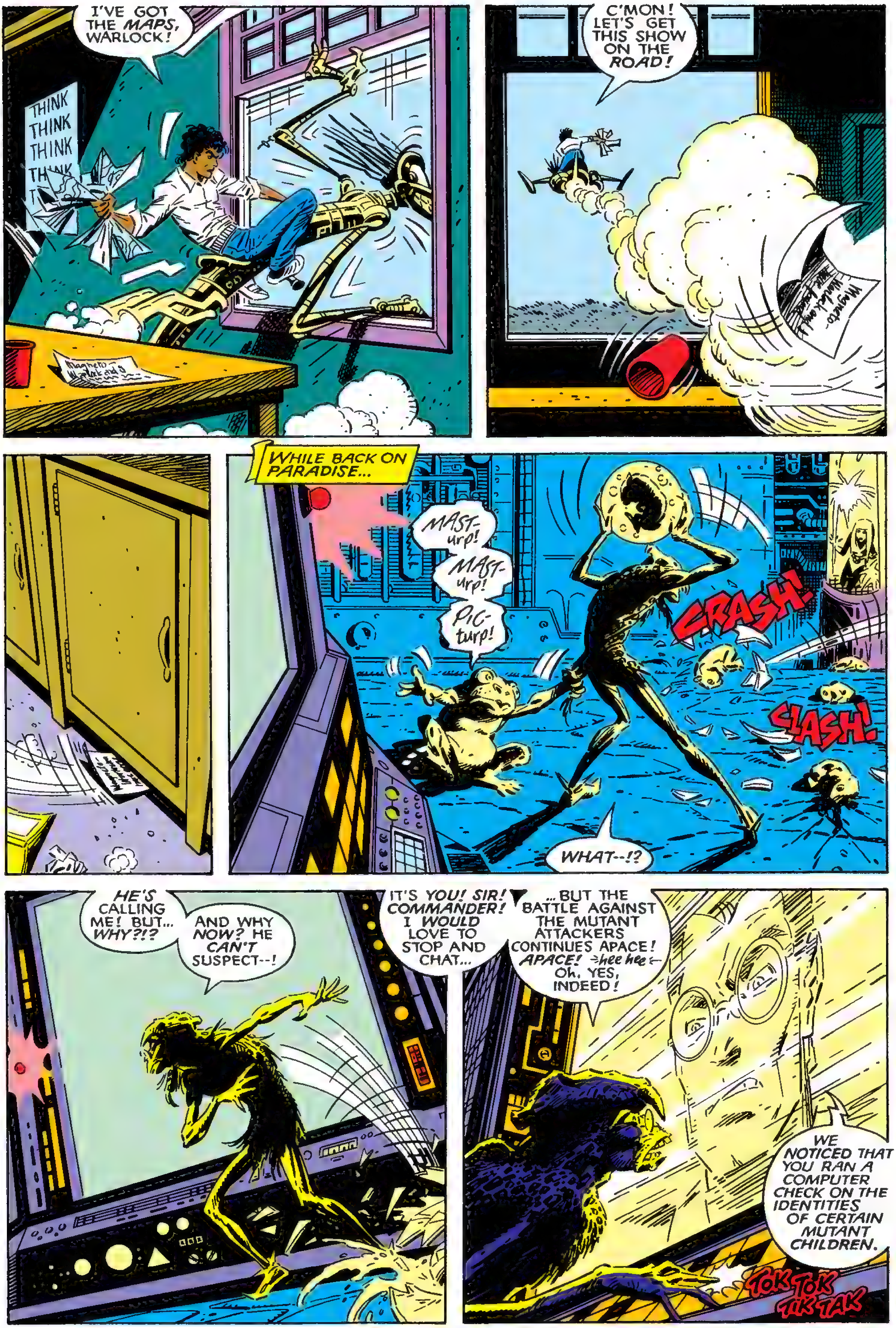

ME AND YOU -cough- BOTH. HE GASSED ME -cough- AGAIN.
AND YOU WILL BE KEPT GASSED! DO YOU THINK I WANT YOU TO RECOVER AND TELEPORT AWAY?
WHY -hee-hee- YOU'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED!
RAHNE... LISTEN... IN YOUR WOLF FORM YOU'RE THE STRONGEST OF US! SWITCH TO IT!
TEST THE GLASS AND--
NO! I WON'T! I CAN'T! NOT BEFORE THOSE CREATURES!
THEY'RE HORRID! AND EVIL! AND IN MY WOLF FORM I HAVE SUCH EVIL THOUGHTS! I... I WANT TO KILL THEM...
I DON'T WANT TO EVER BE A WOLF AGAIN!
POOR LITTLE HALF-BREED! -hee-hee-
IT WOULD DO NO GOOD! BLOWS FROM WITHIN WON'T SHATTER THE CONTAINER!
THESE BATCHES OF ANI-MATES ARE OBSOLETE... BORING! THEY HAVE NO POWERS!
WHY DO YOU CREATURES GAPE AND CRINGE? -hee hee- AFRAID I'LL FIND YOU BORING?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY, DON'T YOU? PICK UP YOUR CUDGELS, MY ANI-MATES...
...AND DESTROY LOT G!
KRASH
KRA-SMASH!

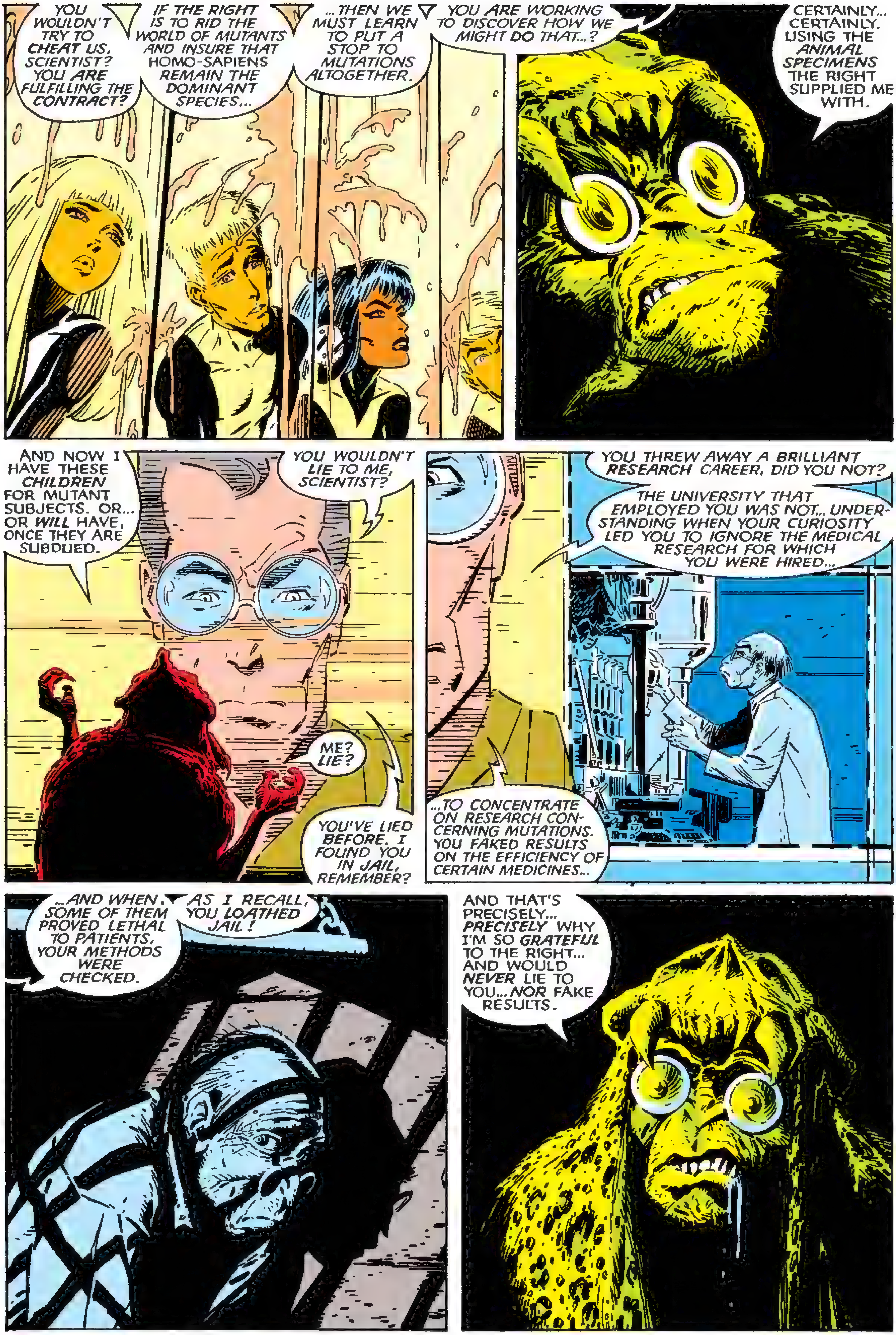

destr-AWK! destro-AWK!
WHAT? YOU DARE TO *MIMIC* ME? TO *MOCK* ME? TO GIVE *ORDERS?*
WHO TAUGHT *YOU* TO SPEAK?!?
SNATCH
SMASH!
CRACK!
No-awrk!
AND *YOU*-- BE *SILENT,* TOO!
WHAK!
NO!
WHY DO THEY *DO* IT? *OBEY* HIM? *KILL* THEIR OWN KIND? WHY DON'T THEY TURN ON *HIM?*
I DUNNO, RAHNE! MAYBE THEY'RE TOO SCARED... OR MAYBE THEY *LIKE* IT!
IT'S... IT'S *HORRIBLE!* *THEY'RE* HORRIBLE!
AND I'M *LIKE* THEM... THIS *MAKES* ME LIKE THEM... BUT I CAN'T LET THOSE LITTLE CREATURES BE DESTROYED...
...WITHOUT USING MY *WHOLE STRENGTH*... TO TRY AND *SAVE* THEM!
ONLY... IT'S NO *USE!*
STRONG AS MY *WEREWOLF* FORM IS... I CAN'T *GET OUT!*

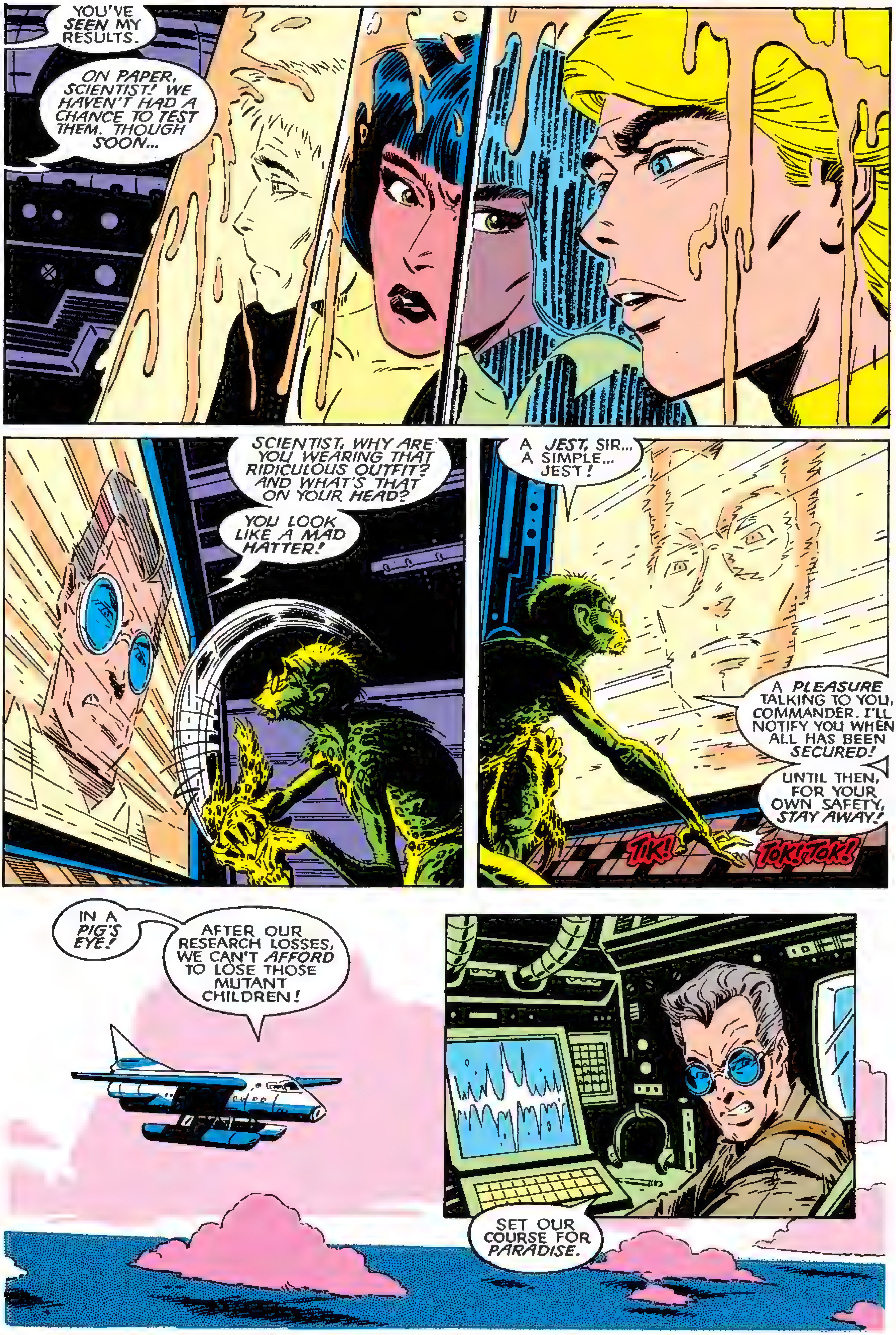

RAHNE, LISTEN! I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID EARLIER! ABOUT ANIMAL LUST! I DIDN'T MEAN *YOU!*
DON'T BE ASHAMED OF HAVING AN ANIMAL FORM. *BIRD-BRAIN'S* A MAN-ANIMAL AND HE'S *GREAT*, ISN'T HE?
AS GOOD AS ANY HUMAN, *BETTER* THAN SOME!
AND *YOUR* POWER'S REALLY *USEFUL!* ALL I CAN DO IS DECIPHER *LANGUAGES*.
AT LEAST YOU CAN *DO* SOMETHING! I MOSTLY FEEL PRETTY *HELPLESS*... ESPECIALLY AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
WE'RE *ALL* HELPLESS RIGHT NOW, DOUG!
I DON'T HAVE AN ANIMAL FORM, RAHNE, BUT WHEN WE GET *OUT* OF HERE, AND WE *WILL*...
...YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO STAND IN *LINE* FOR THE CHANCE TO RIP OUT THAT MONSTER'S *THROAT!*
WHAT'RE WE GONNA *DO?*
WELL... THE ANIMATOR HAS A *BOSS* HE'S SCARED OF! IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S *CHEATING* HIM.
YEAH! MAYBE WE CAN TURN IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE. BUT WHO *IS* IT... AND WHERE IS HE WHEN WE *NEED* HIM?
I WONDER WHERE *MAGNETO* IS! HE *MUST* KNOW WE'RE GONE AND WE LEFT LOTS OF CLUES BACK AT THE SCHOOL...!
MAGNETO'S *SMART*. HE HELPED ME ONCE WHEN I WAS IN TROUBLE IN LIMBO!
HE'LL FIND US... AND THEN HE'LL USE HIS MAGNETIC POWER TO RIP THIS PLACE APART!

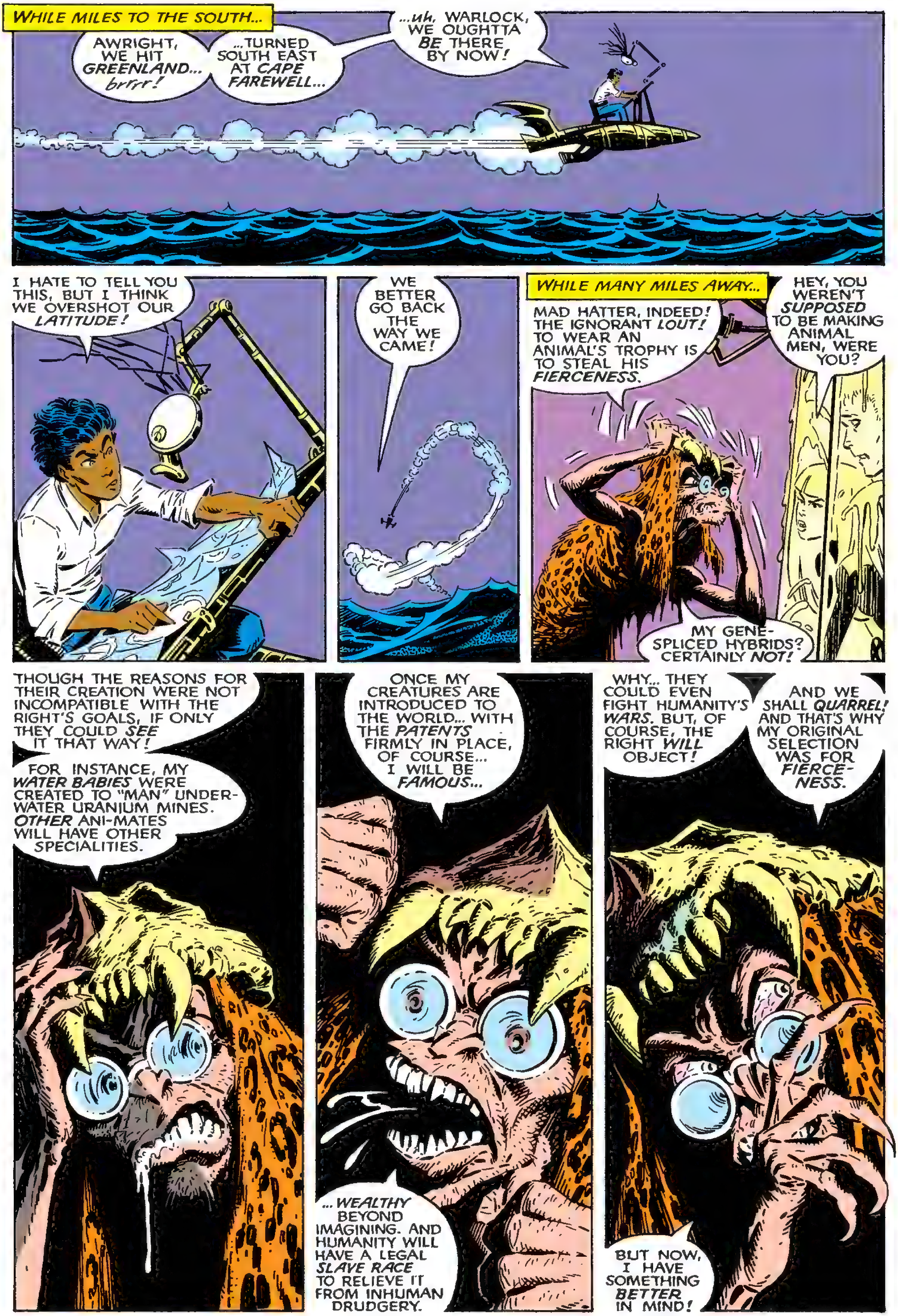

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS! HA!
MAGNETO'S SCHOOL OF *MISSING* STUDENTS WOULD BE A BETTER NAME!
EXCLAMATIONALARM! SELF WAS CERTAIN THAT SELFRIENDOUG WOULD BE WAITING FOR SELF!
WHERE HAS HE GONE? WHY IS HE NOT *HERE*? MIGHT HE NOT BE IN TROUBLE? SHOULD WE NOT GO TO *SAVE* HIM?
YEAH! ME AN' 'LOCK COME HOME AND THE *OTHERS* RUN AWAY! NOT MUCH OF AN IMPROVEMENT, IS IT?
GLASS SCATTERED ON THE FLOOR! DANI'S HORSE GONE FROM THE PASTURE!
ALL OF THEM--EVEN *BIRD-BRAIN*--GONE... VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!
QUERY: DEFINE *BIRD-BRAIN*, MAGNETO*TEACHER*SIR!
THE *BIRD-BOY*! SURELY YOU READ ABOUT IT IN THE *PAPERS*!
MY STUDENTS SECRETLY *RESCUED* HIM... WERE BEGINNING TO CIVILIZE HIM... SOMEWHAT...
...WHEN A CHILDISH *DARE* LANDED THEM IN TROUBLE WITH THE *MALT SHOPPE*!
THEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE ACTED SO IRRESPONSIBLY! I *GROUNDED* THEM!
I DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE XAVIER'S KNACK FOR KEEPING MY STUDENTS SAFELY AND QUIETLY AT SCHOOL...
...BUT I KNOW HOW I MIGHT *FIND* THEM!
MAGNETO-*TEACHER*SIR, WHERE ARE YOU *GOING*?
TO THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*... TO LOCATE MY MISSING STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR MUTANT LOCATION *EQUIPMENT*!
AND REMEMBER, BOY! WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU AND WARLOCK ARE TO REMAIN *HERE*!

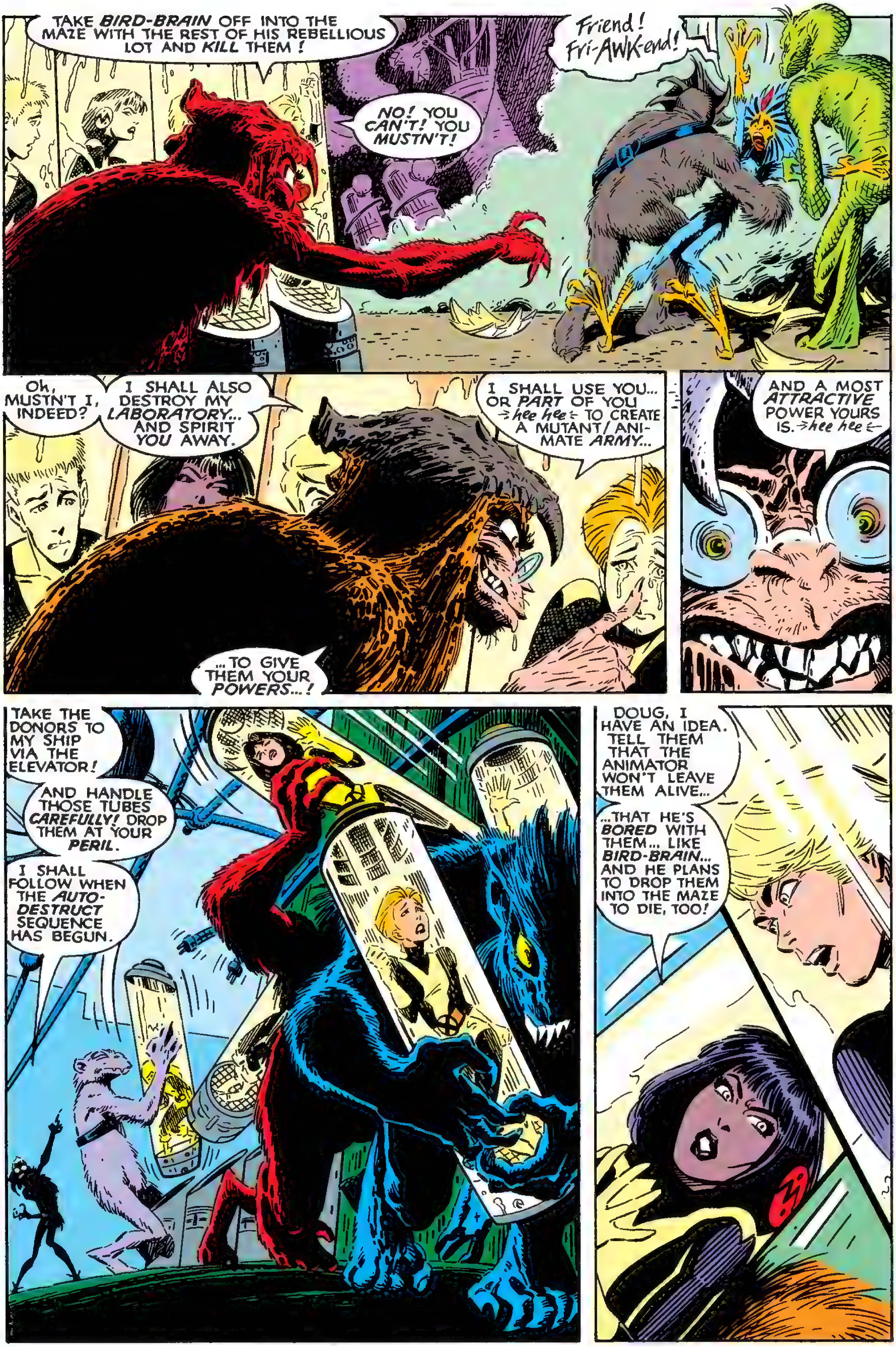

DID YOU HEAR HIM, WARLOCK? HE'S GOING TO THE *HELLFIRE CLUB!*
IT IS A "WRETCHED HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY"... LIKE MOS EISLEY CANTINA IN *STAR WARS* MOVIE, IS IT NOT, SELFRIENDBOBBY?
YEAH, WARLOCK, AT *LEAST* THAT BAD! SINCE WHEN DID HE GET SO COZY WITH THE *HELLFIRE CLUB?*
I GUESS THERE'VE BEEN SOME *CHANGES* AROUND HERE WHILE WE WERE GONE, *huh?*
AT LEAST THEY LEFT US FOOD AND MUSIC AND MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME *CLUES!*
THERE'S A PICTURE OF THE BIRD BOY IN THE NEWS AND...
...*BIRD BOY, FOUND ON AN ICE-FLOE IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND BROUGHT TO MANHATTAN, WHERE HE ESCAPED FROM QUARANTINE.*
CLICK!
DAILY BUGLE
'BIRD-BOY' FOUND IN NORTH ATLANTIC
DONAMITE DONUTS
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NOTHING FURTHER WAS HEARD FROM HIM UNTIL LAST NIGHT WHEN HE ALLEGEDLY ROBBED A McBURGER'S AND FLEW NORTH TOWARD...
SELFRIENDBOBBY! THERE ARE *MAPS* ON TABLE WITH *ISLAND GROUP* CIRCLED! *THEY* ARE *NORTH!*
NORTH, huh?
THAT'S WHERE THEY'VE *GONE!* MAGNETO *SAID* WE WERE S'POSED TO STAY HERE BUT...
SELFRIEND, NO ONE *EVER* SEEMS TO *STAY HERE.*
YOU'RE RIGHT! AT LEAST *THIS* TIME WE'LL LEAVE A *NOTE!*

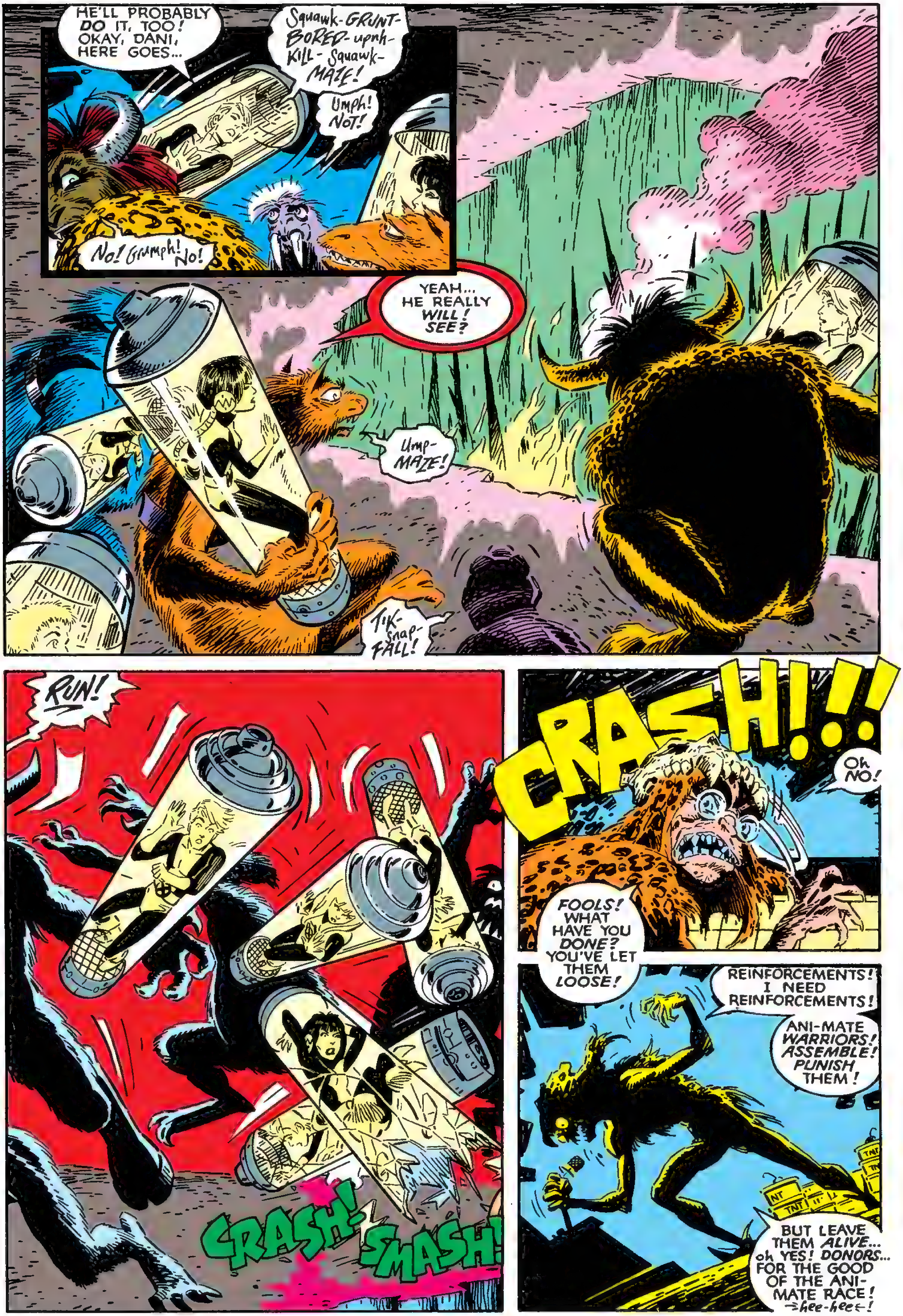

I'VE GOT THE *MAPS*, WARLOCK!
THINK THINK THINK TH...
C'MON! LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE *ROAD!*
WHILE BACK ON PARADISE...
MAST-urp!
MAST-urp!
PIC-turp!
CRASH!
CLASH!
WHAT--!?
HE'S CALLING ME! BUT... *WHY?!?*
AND WHY *NOW?* HE *CAN'T* SUSPECT--!
IT'S *YOU! SIR! COMMANDER!* I *WOULD* LOVE TO STOP AND CHAT...
...BUT THE BATTLE AGAINST THE MUTANT ATTACKERS CONTINUES APACE! *APACE!* ⇒hee hee⇐ Oh, YES, INDEED!
WE NOTICED THAT YOU RAN A COMPUTER CHECK ON THE IDENTITIES OF CERTAIN MUTANT CHILDREN.
TOK TOK TIK TAK

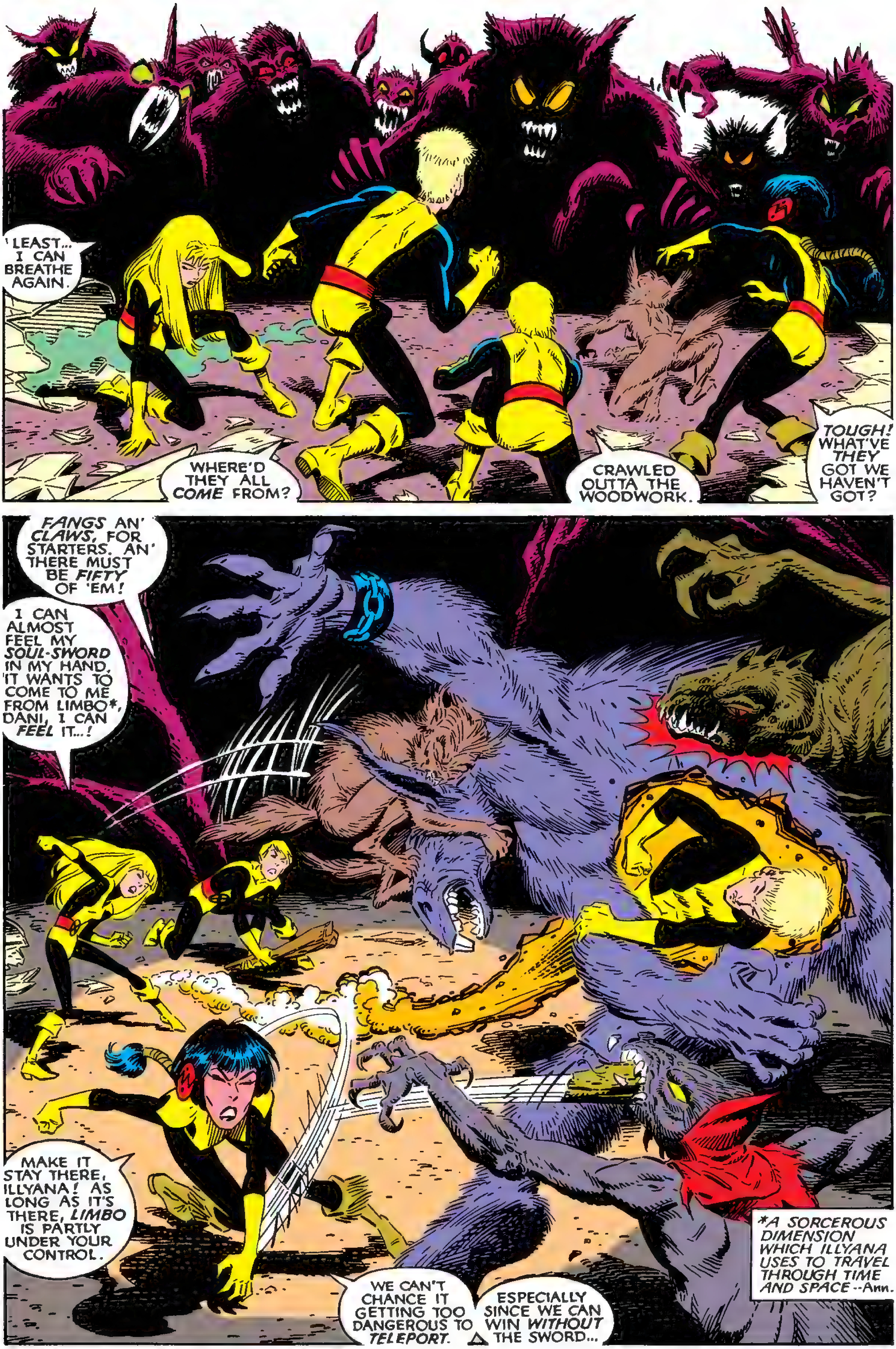

YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO CHEAT US, SCIENTIST? YOU ARE FULFILLING THE CONTRACT?
IF THE RIGHT IS TO RID THE WORLD OF MUTANTS AND INSURE THAT HOMO-SAPIENS REMAIN THE DOMINANT SPECIES...
...THEN WE MUST LEARN TO PUT A STOP TO MUTATIONS ALTOGETHER.
YOU ARE WORKING TO DISCOVER HOW WE MIGHT DO THAT...?
CERTAINLY... CERTAINLY. USING THE ANIMAL SPECIMENS THE RIGHT SUPPLIED ME WITH.
AND NOW I HAVE THESE CHILDREN FOR MUTANT SUBJECTS. OR... OR WILL HAVE, ONCE THEY ARE SUBDUED.
YOU WOULDN'T LIE TO ME, SCIENTIST?
ME? LIE?
YOU'VE LIED BEFORE. I FOUND YOU IN JAIL, REMEMBER?
YOU THREW AWAY A BRILLIANT RESEARCH CAREER, DID YOU NOT?
THE UNIVERSITY THAT EMPLOYED YOU WAS NOT... UNDERSTANDING WHEN YOUR CURIOSITY LED YOU TO IGNORE THE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOR WHICH YOU WERE HIRED...
...TO CONCENTRATE ON RESEARCH CONCERNING MUTATIONS. YOU FAKED RESULTS ON THE EFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN MEDICINES...
...AND WHEN SOME OF THEM PROVED LETHAL TO PATIENTS, YOUR METHODS WERE CHECKED.
AS I RECALL, YOU LOATHED JAIL!
AND THAT'S PRECISELY... PRECISELY WHY I'M SO GRATEFUL TO THE RIGHT... AND WOULD NEVER LIE TO YOU... NOR FAKE RESULTS.

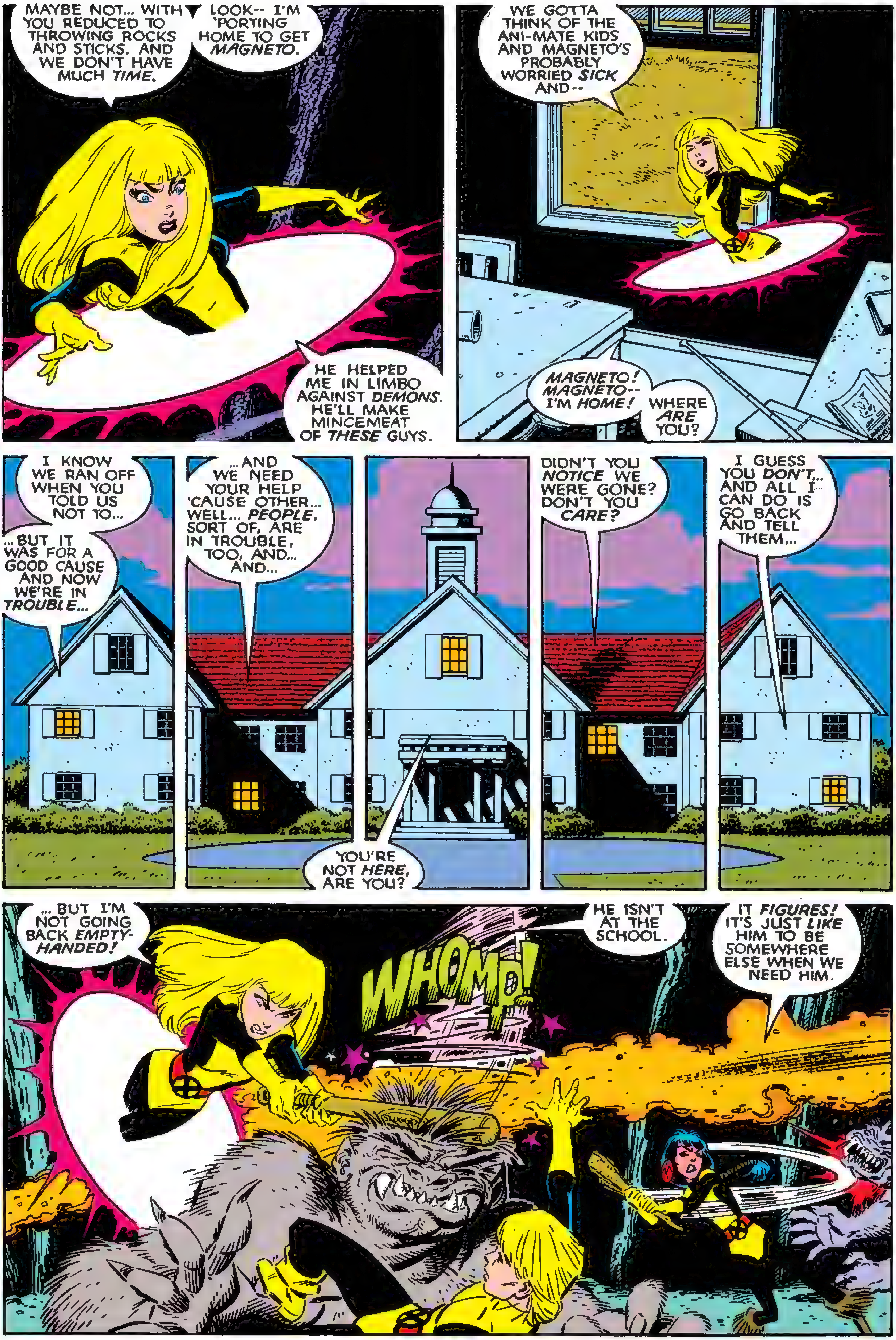

YOU'VE *SEEN* MY RESULTS.
ON PAPER, SCIENTIST! WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TEST THEM. THOUGH SOON...
SCIENTIST, WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT RIDICULOUS OUTFIT? AND WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR *HEAD*?
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAD HATTER!
A *JEST*, SIR... A SIMPLE... JEST!
A *PLEASURE* TALKING TO YOU, COMMANDER. I'LL NOTIFY YOU WHEN ALL HAS BEEN *SECURED!*
UNTIL THEN, FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, *STAY AWAY!*
TIK!
TOK! TOK!
IN A *PIG'S EYE!*
AFTER OUR RESEARCH LOSSES, WE CAN'T *AFFORD* TO LOSE THOSE MUTANT CHILDREN!
SET OUR COURSE FOR *PARADISE*.

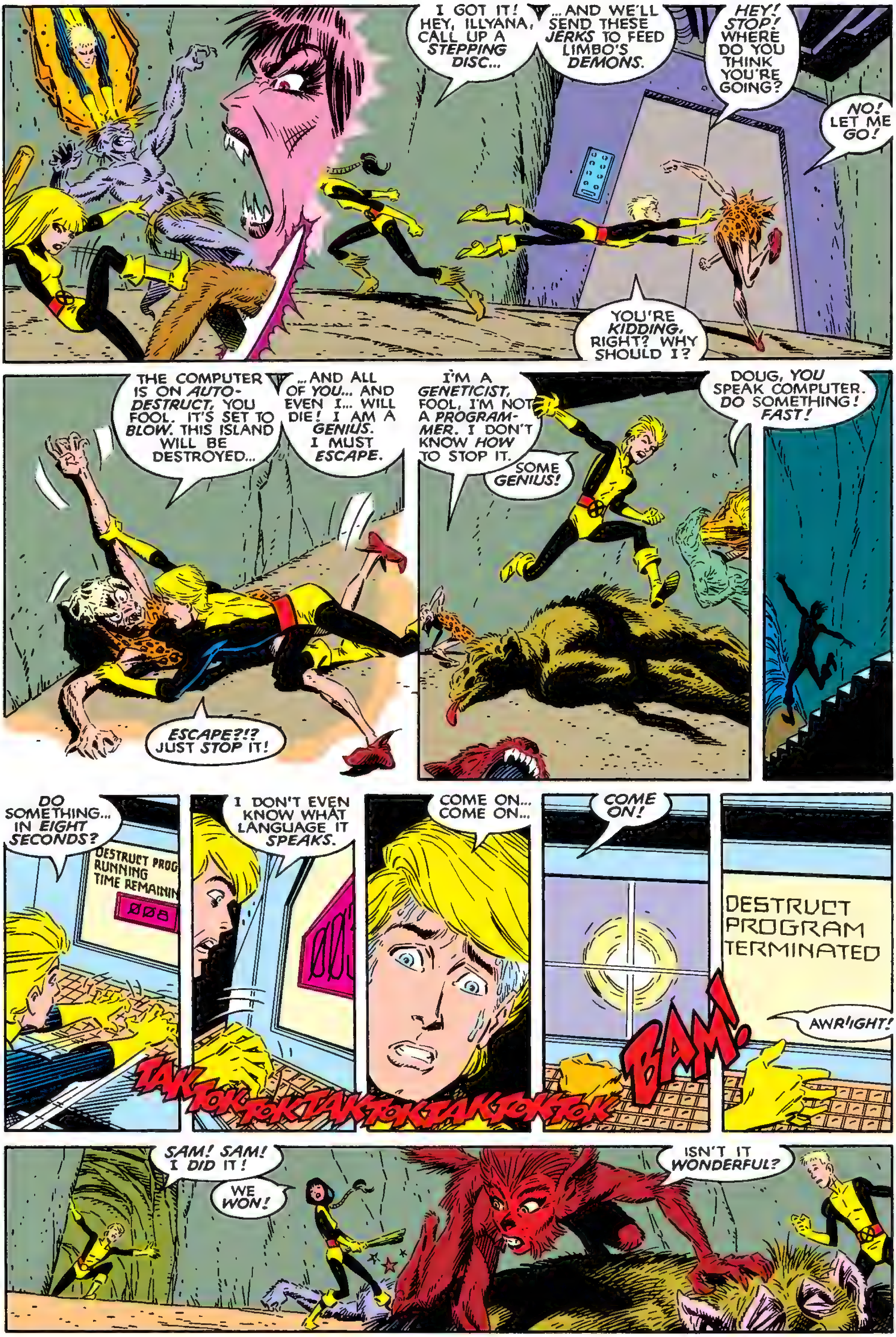

WHILE MILES TO THE SOUTH...
AWRIGHT, WE HIT GREENLAND... brrrr!
...TURNED SOUTH EAST AT CAPE FAREWELL...
...uh, WARLOCK, WE OUGHTTA BE THERE BY NOW!
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT I THINK WE OVERSHOT OUR LATITUDE!
WE BETTER GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME!
WHILE MANY MILES AWAY...
MAD HATTER, INDEED! THE IGNORANT LOUT! TO WEAR AN ANIMAL'S TROPHY IS TO STEAL HIS FIERCENESS.
HEY, YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING ANIMAL MEN, WERE YOU?
MY GENE-SPLICED HYBRIDS? CERTAINLY NOT!
THOUGH THE REASONS FOR THEIR CREATION WERE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE RIGHT'S GOALS, IF ONLY THEY COULD SEE IT THAT WAY!
FOR INSTANCE, MY WATER BABIES WERE CREATED TO "MAN" UNDER-WATER URANIUM MINES. OTHER ANI-MATES WILL HAVE OTHER SPECIALITIES.
ONCE MY CREATURES ARE INTRODUCED TO THE WORLD... WITH THE PATENTS FIRMLY IN PLACE, OF COURSE... I WILL BE FAMOUS...
...WEALTHY BEYOND IMAGINING. AND HUMANITY WILL HAVE A LEGAL SLAVE RACE TO RELIEVE IT FROM INHUMAN DRUDGERY.
WHY... THEY COULD EVEN FIGHT HUMANITY'S WARS. BUT, OF COURSE, THE RIGHT WILL OBJECT!
AND WE SHALL QUARREL! AND THAT'S WHY MY ORIGINAL SELECTION WAS FOR FIERCENESS.
BUT NOW, I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND!


TAKE *BIRD-BRAIN* OFF INTO THE MAZE WITH THE REST OF HIS REBELLIOUS LOT AND *KILL* THEM!
NO! YOU CAN'T! YOU *MUSTN'T!*
Friend! Fri-AWK-end!
Oh, MUSTN'T I, INDEED?
I SHALL ALSO DESTROY MY *LABORATORY*... AND SPIRIT *YOU* AWAY.
I SHALL USE YOU... OR *PART* OF YOU *hee hee* TO CREATE A MUTANT/ANIMATE *ARMY*...
...TO GIVE THEM YOUR *POWERS*...!
AND A MOST *ATTRACTIVE* POWER YOURS IS. *hee hee*
TAKE THE DONORS TO MY SHIP VIA THE ELEVATOR!
AND HANDLE THOSE TUBES *CAREFULLY!* DROP THEM AT YOUR *PERIL*.
I SHALL FOLLOW WHEN THE *AUTO-DESTRUCT* SEQUENCE HAS BEGUN.
DOUG, I HAVE AN IDEA. TELL THEM THAT THE ANIMATOR WON'T LEAVE THEM ALIVE...
...THAT HE'S *BORED* WITH THEM... LIKE *BIRD-BRAIN*... AND HE PLANS TO DROP THEM INTO THE MAZE TO DIE, TOO!

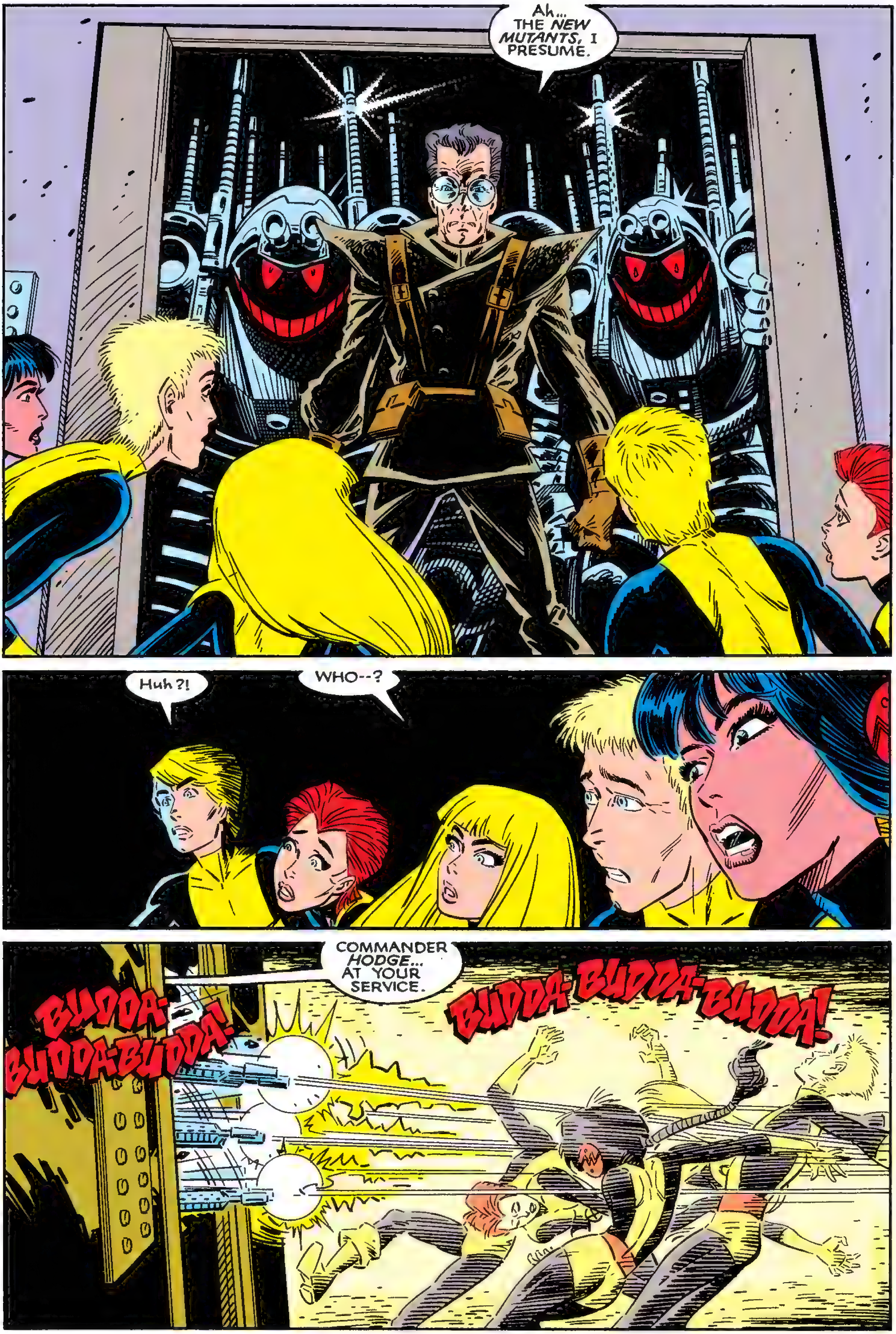

HE'LL PROBABLY DO IT, TOO! OKAY, DANI, HERE GOES...
Squawk-GRUNT-BORED-upnh-KILL-Squawk-MAZE!
Umph! NOT!
No! Grumph! No!
YEAH... HE REALLY WILL! SEE?
Ump-MAZE!
Tik-Snap-FALL!
RUN!
CRASH! SMASH!
CRASH!!!
Oh NO!
FOOLS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU'VE LET THEM LOOSE!
REINFORCEMENTS! I NEED REINFORCEMENTS!
ANI-MATE WARRIORS! ASSEMBLE! PUNISH THEM!
TNT
BUT LEAVE THEM ALIVE... oh YES! DONORS... FOR THE GOOD OF THE ANI-MATE RACE! =hee-hee=!

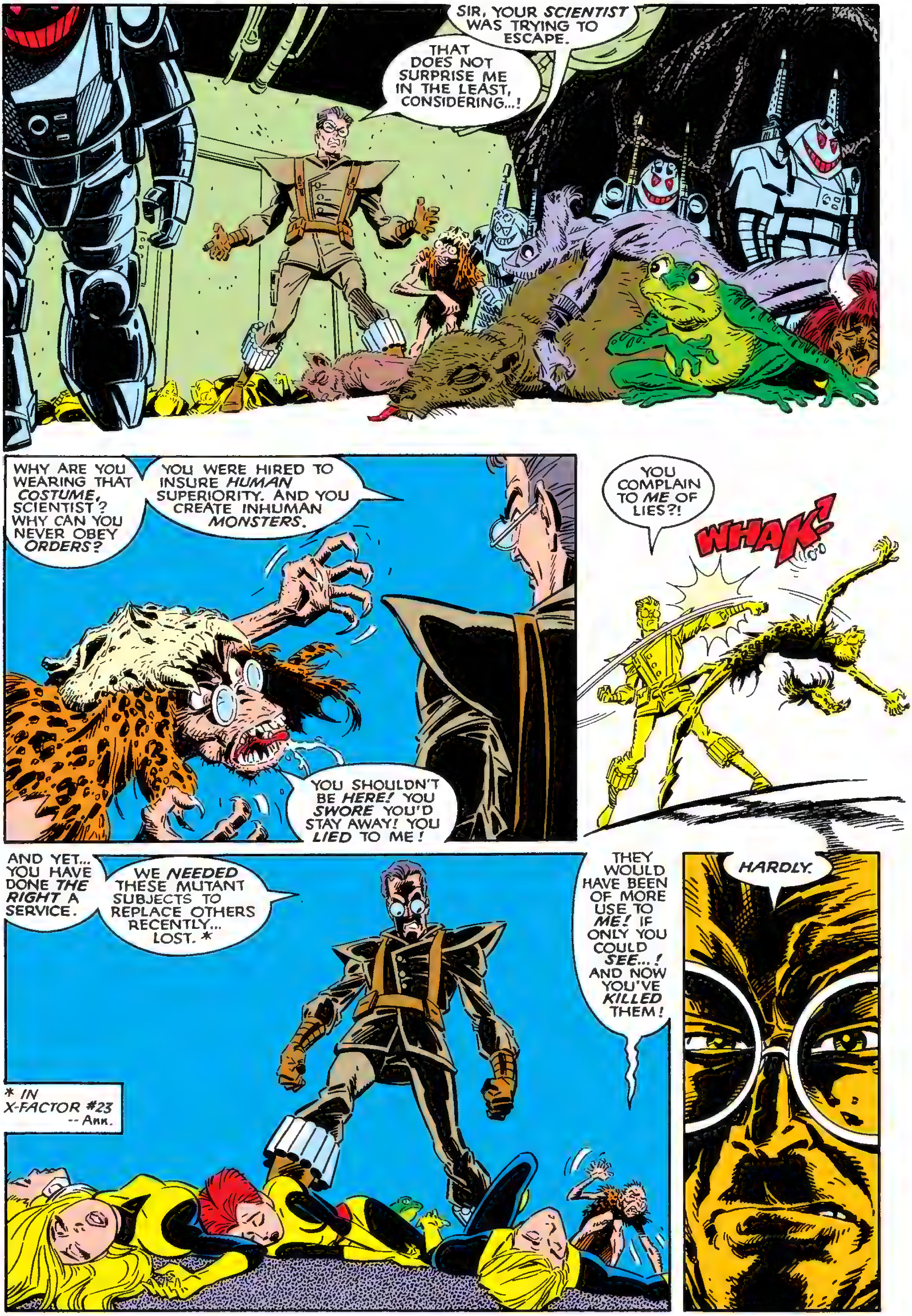

'LEAST... I CAN BREATHE AGAIN.
WHERE'D THEY ALL COME FROM?
CRAWLED OUTTA THE WOODWORK.
TOUGH! WHAT'VE THEY GOT WE HAVEN'T GOT?
FANGS AN' CLAWS, FOR STARTERS. AN' THERE MUST BE FIFTY OF 'EM!
I CAN ALMOST FEEL MY SOUL-SWORD IN MY HAND. IT WANTS TO COME TO ME FROM LIMBO*, DANI, I CAN FEEL IT...!
MAKE IT STAY THERE, ILLYANA! AS LONG AS IT'S THERE, LIMBO IS PARTLY UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
WE CAN'T CHANCE IT GETTING TOO DANGEROUS TO TELEPORT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE CAN WIN WITHOUT THE SWORD...
*A SORCEROUS DIMENSION WHICH ILLYANA USES TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME AND SPACE --Ann.

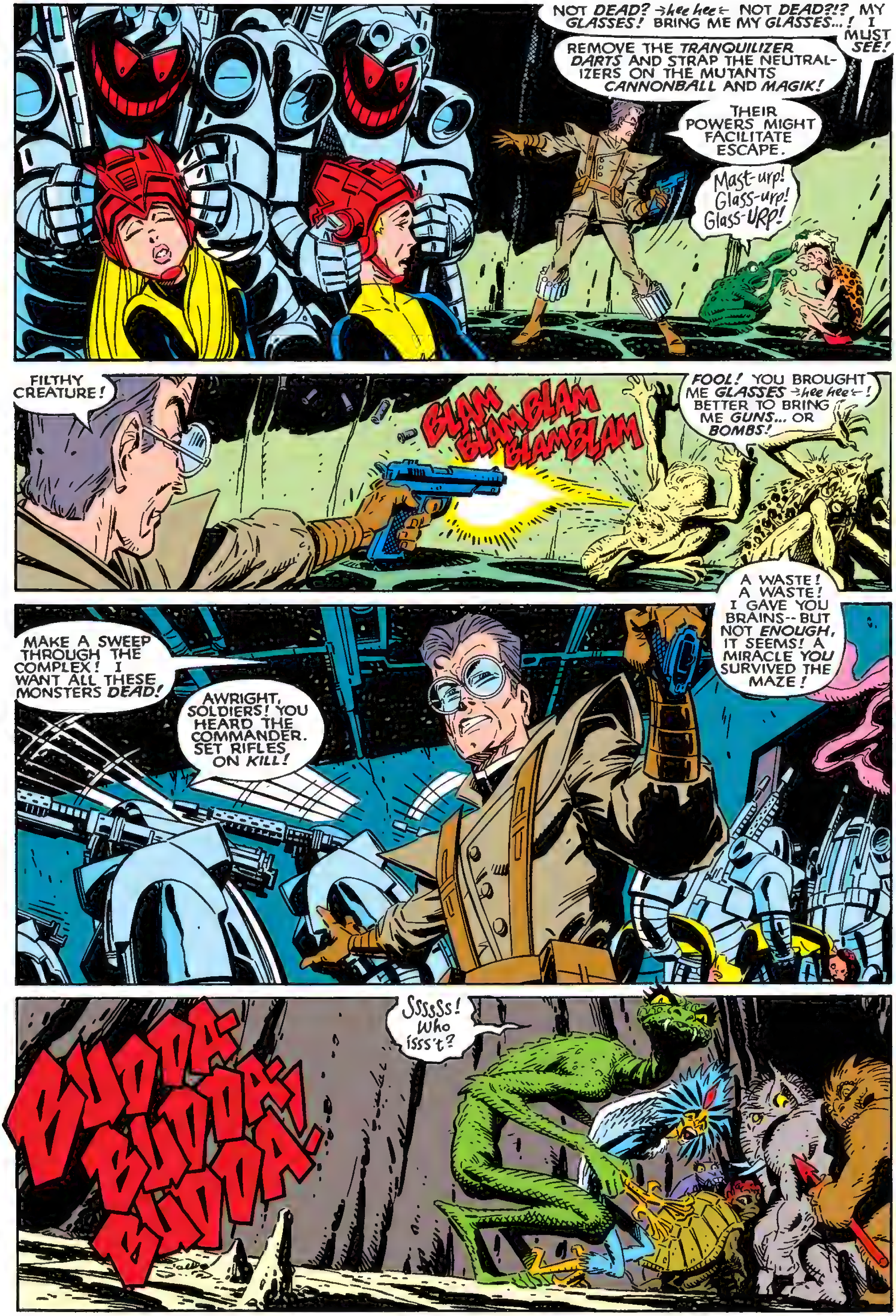

MAYBE NOT... WITH YOU REDUCED TO THROWING ROCKS AND STICKS. AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH *TIME*.
LOOK-- I'M 'PORTING HOME TO GET *MAGNETO*.
HE HELPED ME IN LIMBO AGAINST *DEMONS*. HE'LL MAKE MINCEMEAT OF *THESE* GUYS.
WE GOTTA THINK OF THE ANI-MATE KIDS AND MAGNETO'S PROBABLY WORRIED *SICK* AND--
MAGNETO! MAGNETO-- I'M *HOME!*
WHERE *ARE* YOU?
I KNOW WE RAN OFF WHEN YOU TOLD US NOT TO...
...BUT IT WAS FOR A GOOD CAUSE AND NOW WE'RE IN *TROUBLE*...
...AND WE NEED YOUR HELP 'CAUSE OTHER... WELL... *PEOPLE*, SORT OF, ARE IN TROUBLE, TOO, AND... AND...
YOU'RE NOT *HERE*, ARE YOU?
DIDN'T YOU *NOTICE* WE WERE GONE? DON'T YOU *CARE?*
I GUESS YOU *DON'T*... AND ALL I-- CAN DO IS GO BACK AND TELL THEM...
... BUT I'M NOT GOING BACK *EMPTY-HANDED!*
WHOMP!
HE ISN'T AT THE SCHOOL.
IT *FIGURES!* IT'S JUST *LIKE* HIM TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN WE NEED HIM.

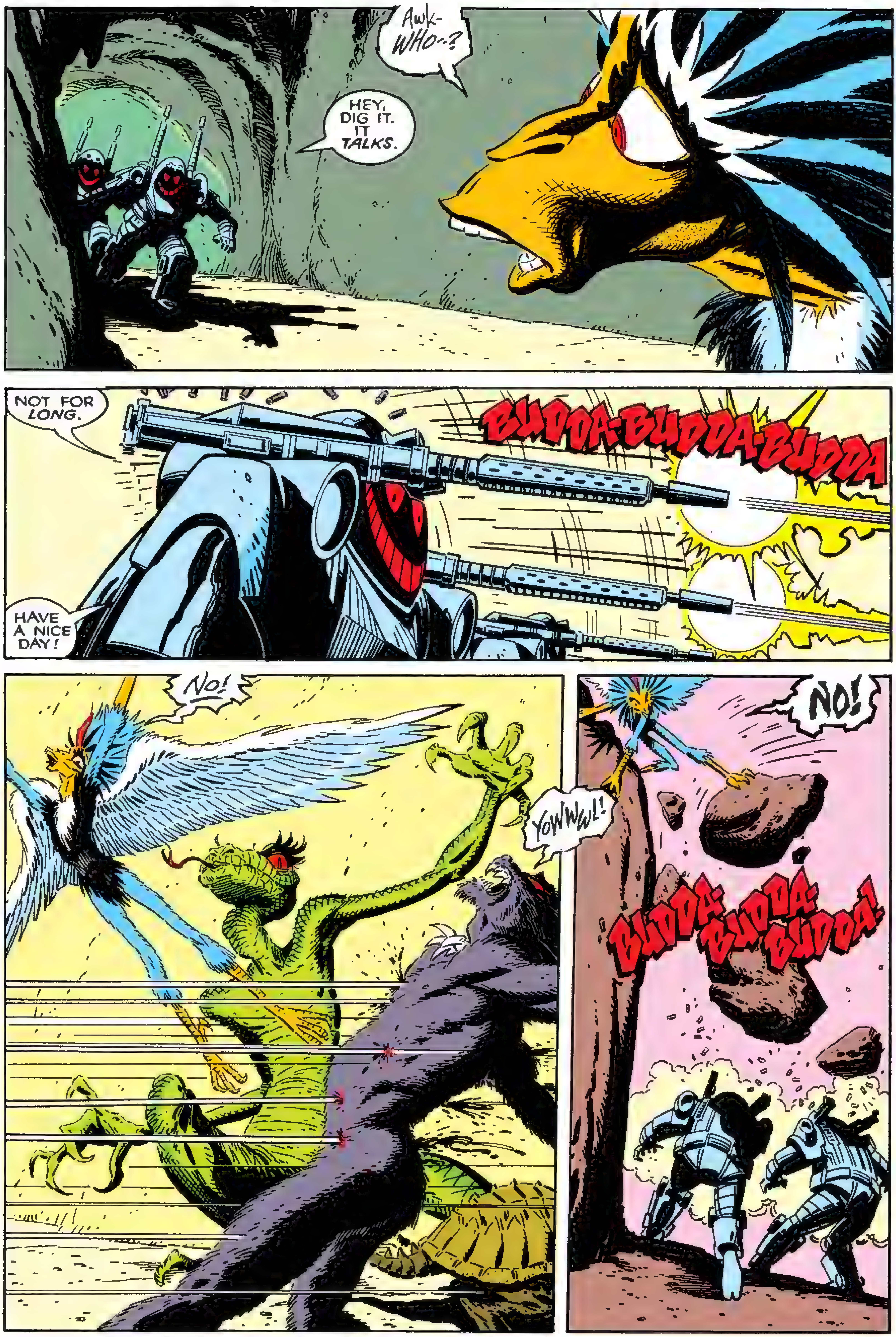

I GOT IT! HEY, ILLYANA, CALL UP A STEPPING DISC...
...AND WE'LL SEND THESE JERKS TO FEED LIMBO'S DEMONS.
HEY! STOP! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
NO! LET ME GO!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? WHY SHOULD I?
THE COMPUTER IS ON AUTO-DESTRUCT, YOU FOOL. IT'S SET TO BLOW. THIS ISLAND WILL BE DESTROYED...
...AND ALL OF YOU... AND EVEN I... WILL DIE! I AM A GENIUS. I MUST ESCAPE.
ESCAPE?!? JUST STOP IT!
I'M A GENETICIST, FOOL. I'M NOT A PROGRAMMER. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.
SOME GENIUS!
DOUG, YOU SPEAK COMPUTER. DO SOMETHING! FAST!
DO SOMETHING... IN EIGHT SECONDS?
DESTRUCT PROG
RUNNING
TIME REMAININ
008
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT LANGUAGE IT SPEAKS.
COME ON... COME ON...
COME ON!
DESTRUCT PROGRAM TERMINATED
AWRIGHT!
TAK TOK TOK TAK TOK TAK TOK TOK
BAM!
SAM! SAM! I DID IT!
WE WON!
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?

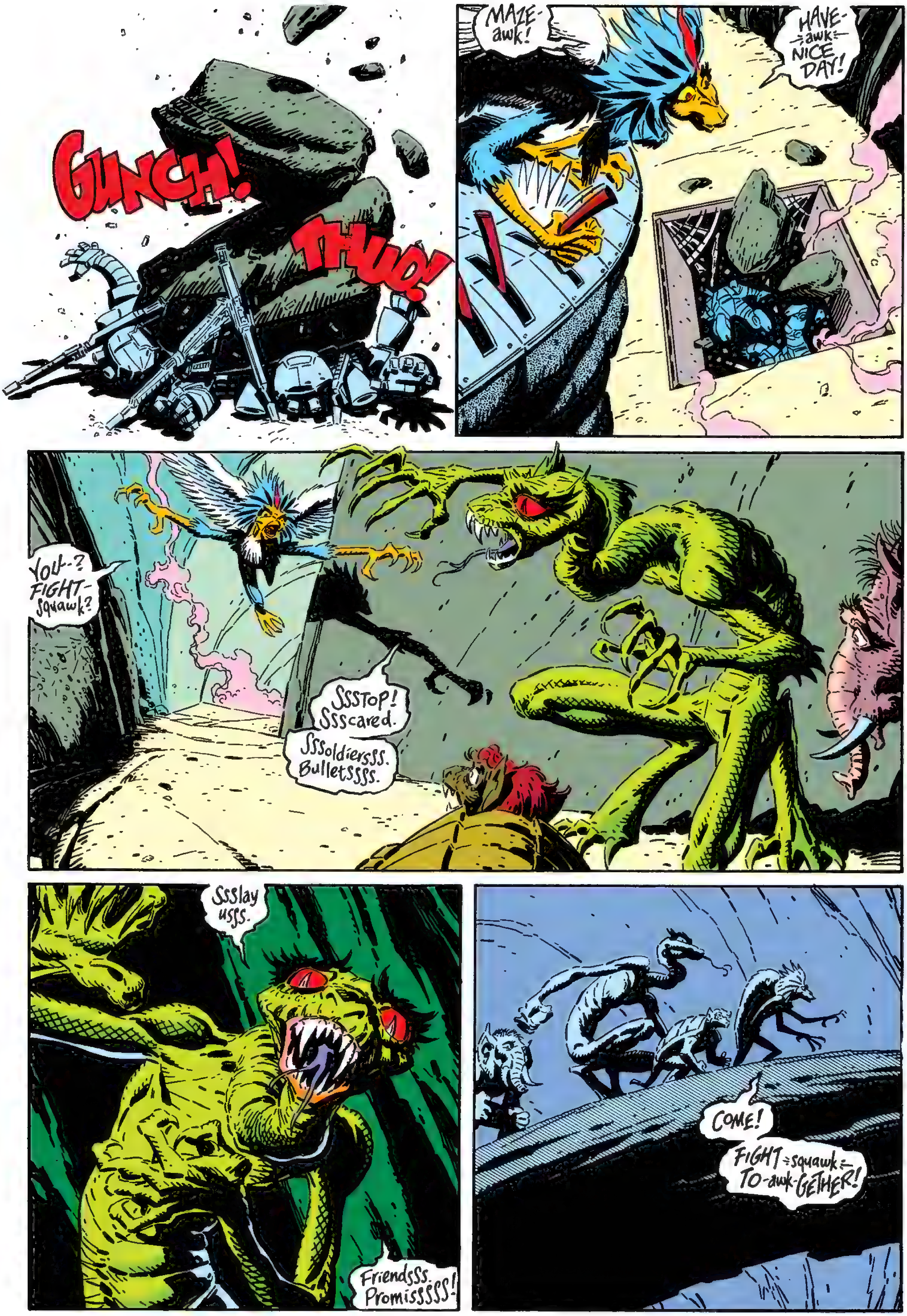
SEE, ILLYANA, WE DIDN'T NEED YOUR SWORD, AFTER ALL.
OR MAGNETO.
YEAH! WE *DID* IT!
BUT... IT WASN'T *LIKE* MAGNETO NOT TO *BE* THERE.
NEVER MIND, ILLYANA. HE'LL GET BACK SOON ENOUGH... *AND* FIND OUT WHAT WE'VE DONE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU 'PORT BIRD-BRAIN AND HIS FRIENDS TO THE SCHOOL.
OHMIGOSH, BIRD-BRAIN! I ALMOST FORGOT! THEY TOOK HIM OFF IN THE ELEVATOR. WE BETTER *HURRY.*
BE KINDA FUN... ESPECIALLY HAVIN' LITTLE ANIMAL KIDS CRAWLIN' 'ROUND THE SCHOOL.
TELL THAT TO *MAGNETO!*
THOUGH YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK OF THEM AS THOUGH THEY'RE *PETS*, SAM. THEY'RE PEOPLE...
SORT OF. IMAGINE... A WHOLE *SCHOOL* OF *BIRD-BRAINS.*
ARE WE LUCKY OR WHAT...? *HERE* IT *IS.*
SHWIIIIIIP!


Ah... THE *NEW MUTANTS,* I PRESUME.
Huh?!
WHO--?
COMMANDER *HODGE*... AT YOUR SERVICE.
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!

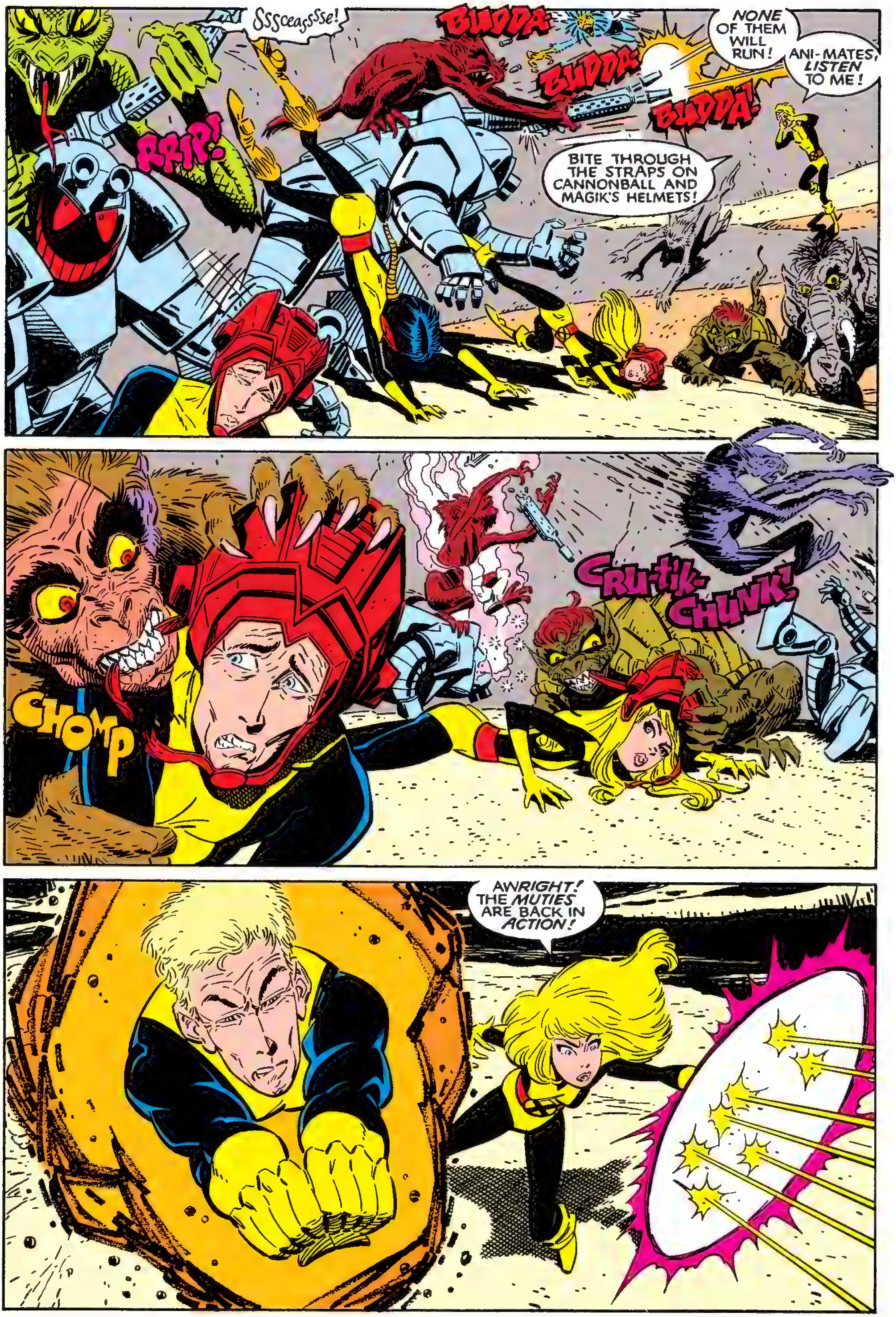

SIR, YOUR *SCIENTIST* WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE.
THAT DOES NOT SURPRISE ME IN THE LEAST, CONSIDERING...!
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT *COSTUME*, SCIENTIST? WHY CAN YOU NEVER OBEY *ORDERS*?
YOU WERE HIRED TO INSURE *HUMAN* SUPERIORITY. AND YOU CREATE INHUMAN *MONSTERS*.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE *HERE!* YOU *SWORE* YOU'D STAY AWAY! YOU *LIED* TO ME!
YOU COMPLAIN TO *ME* OF LIES?!
WHAK!
AND YET... YOU HAVE DONE *THE RIGHT* A SERVICE.
WE *NEEDED* THESE MUTANT SUBJECTS TO REPLACE OTHERS RECENTLY... LOST. *
* IN X-FACTOR #23 -- Ann.
THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN OF MORE USE TO *ME!* IF ONLY YOU COULD *SEE...!* AND NOW YOU'VE *KILLED* THEM!
HARDLY.

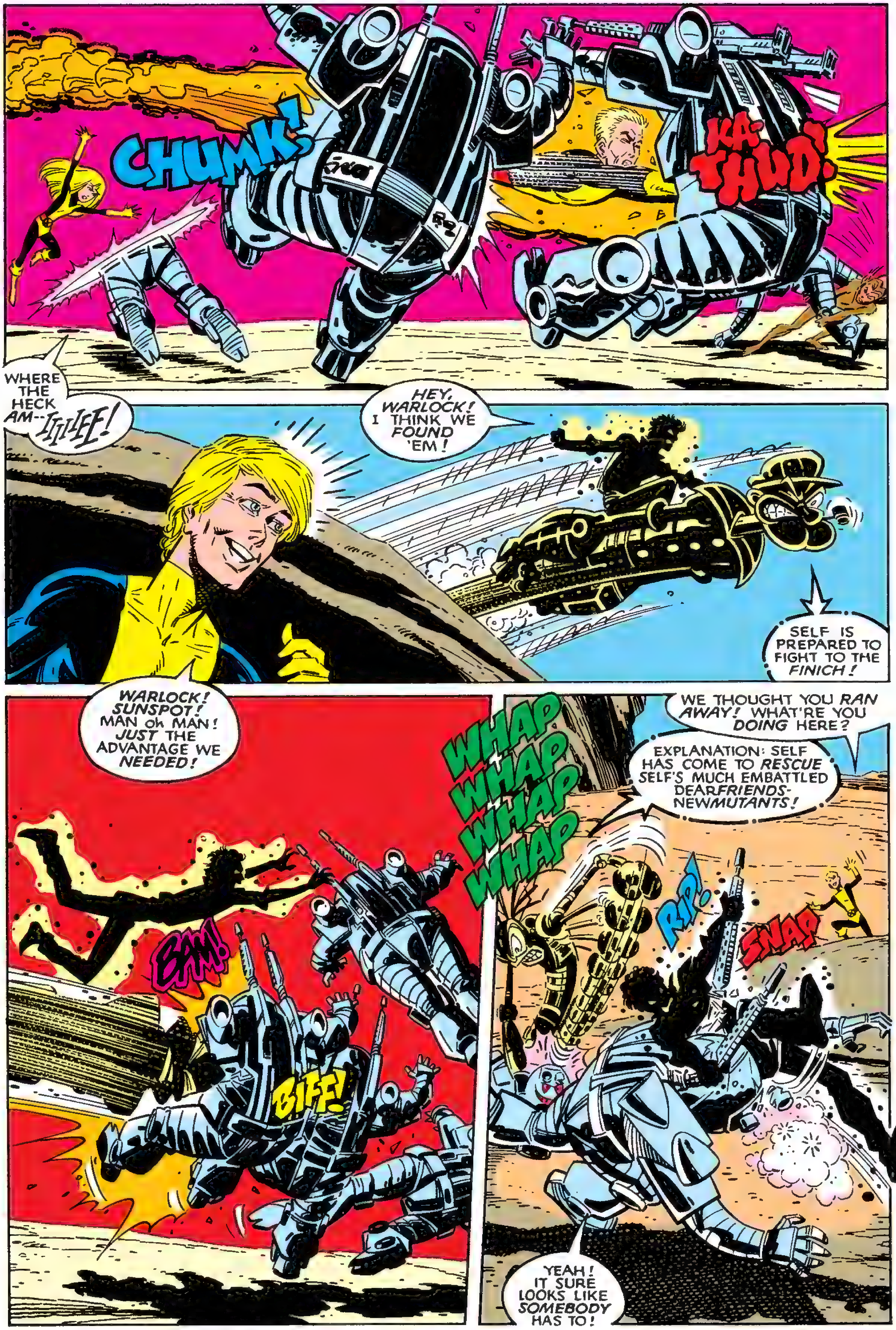

NOT DEAD? ≯hee hee≮ NOT DEAD?!? MY GLASSES! BRING ME MY GLASSES...! I MUST SEE!
REMOVE THE TRANQUILIZER DARTS AND STRAP THE NEUTRALIZERS ON THE MUTANTS CANNONBALL AND MAGIK!
THEIR POWERS MIGHT FACILITATE ESCAPE.
Mast-urp! Glass-urp! Glass-URP!
FILTHY CREATURE!
BLAM BLAMBLAM BLAMBLAM BLAMBLAM
FOOL! YOU BROUGHT ME GLASSES ≯hee hee≮! BETTER TO BRING ME GUNS... OR BOMBS!
MAKE A SWEEP THROUGH THE COMPLEX! I WANT ALL THESE MONSTERS DEAD!
AWRIGHT, SOLDIERS! YOU HEARD THE COMMANDER. SET RIFLES ON KILL!
A WASTE! A WASTE! I GAVE YOU BRAINS-- BUT NOT ENOUGH, IT SEEMS! A MIRACLE YOU SURVIVED THE MAZE!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
Sssssss! Who isss't?

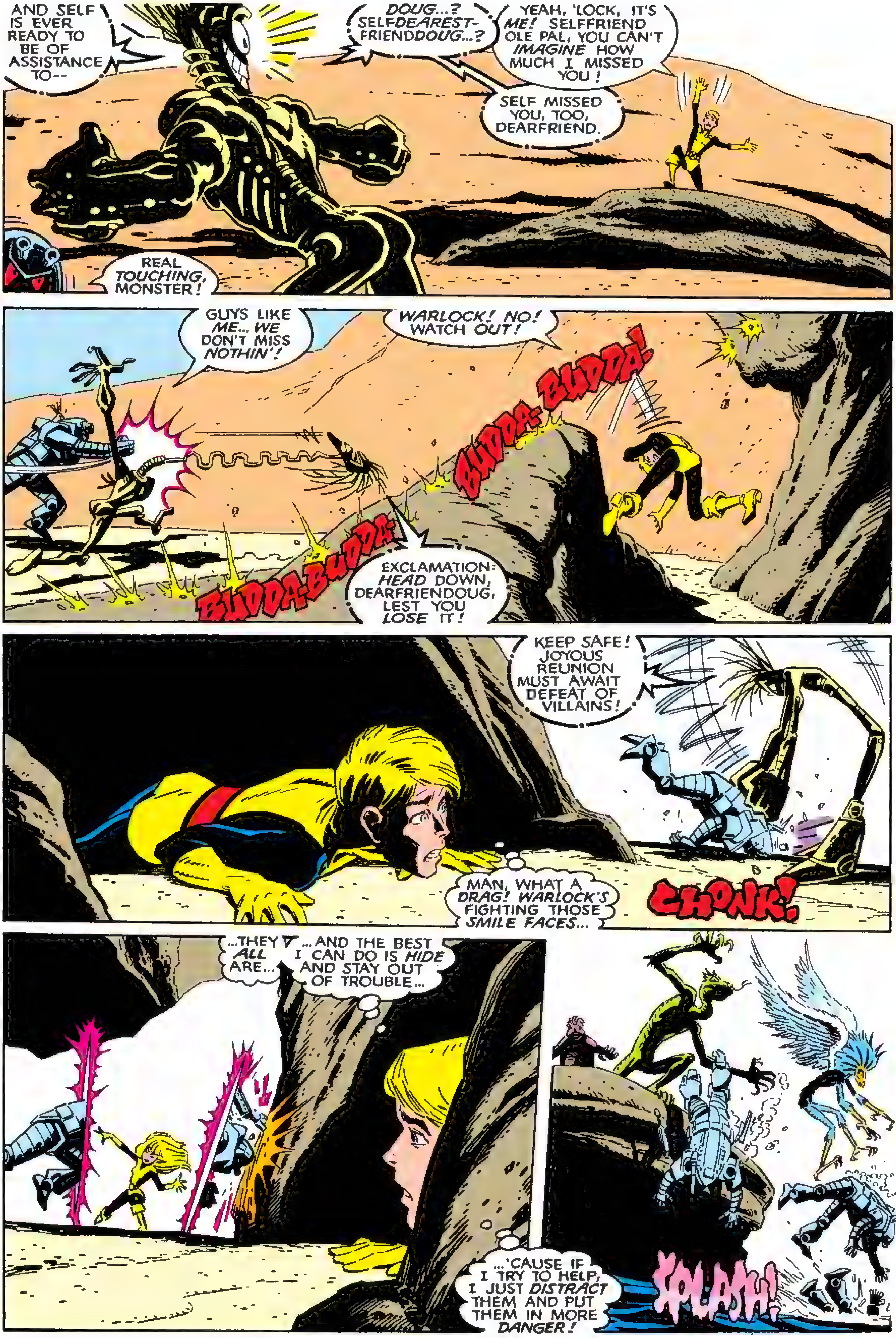

Awk-WHO-?
HEY, DIG IT. IT TALKS.
NOT FOR LONG.
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA
HAVE A NICE DAY!
No!
YOWWWL!
NO!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!

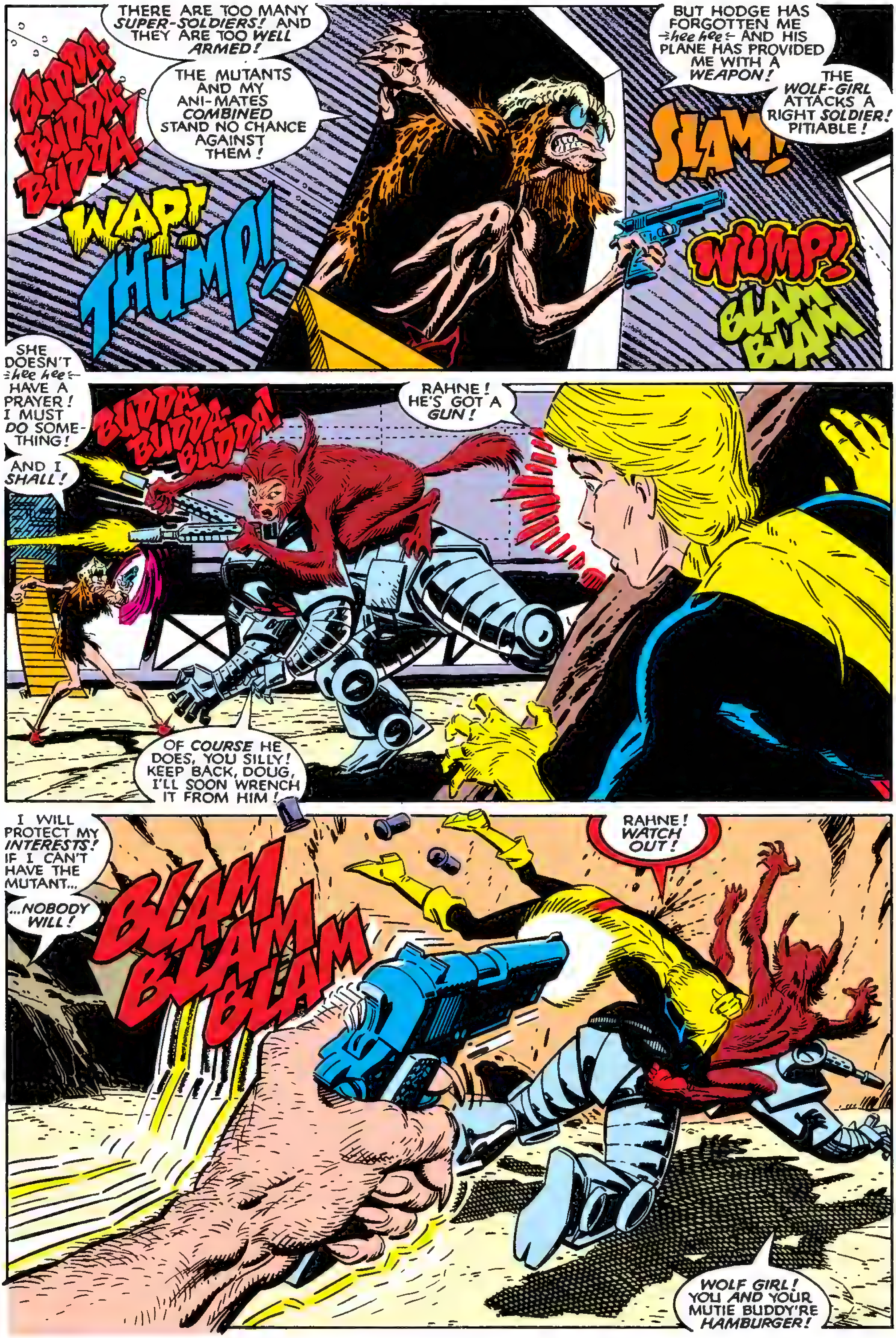

GUNCH!
THUD!
MAZE-awk!
HAVE-awk-NICE DAY!
YOU-? FIGHT-squawk?
SSSTOP! SSScared.
SSSoldiersss. Bulletssss.
Ssslay ussss.
Friendsss. Promissssss!
COME!
FIGHT-squawk-TO-awk-GETHER!

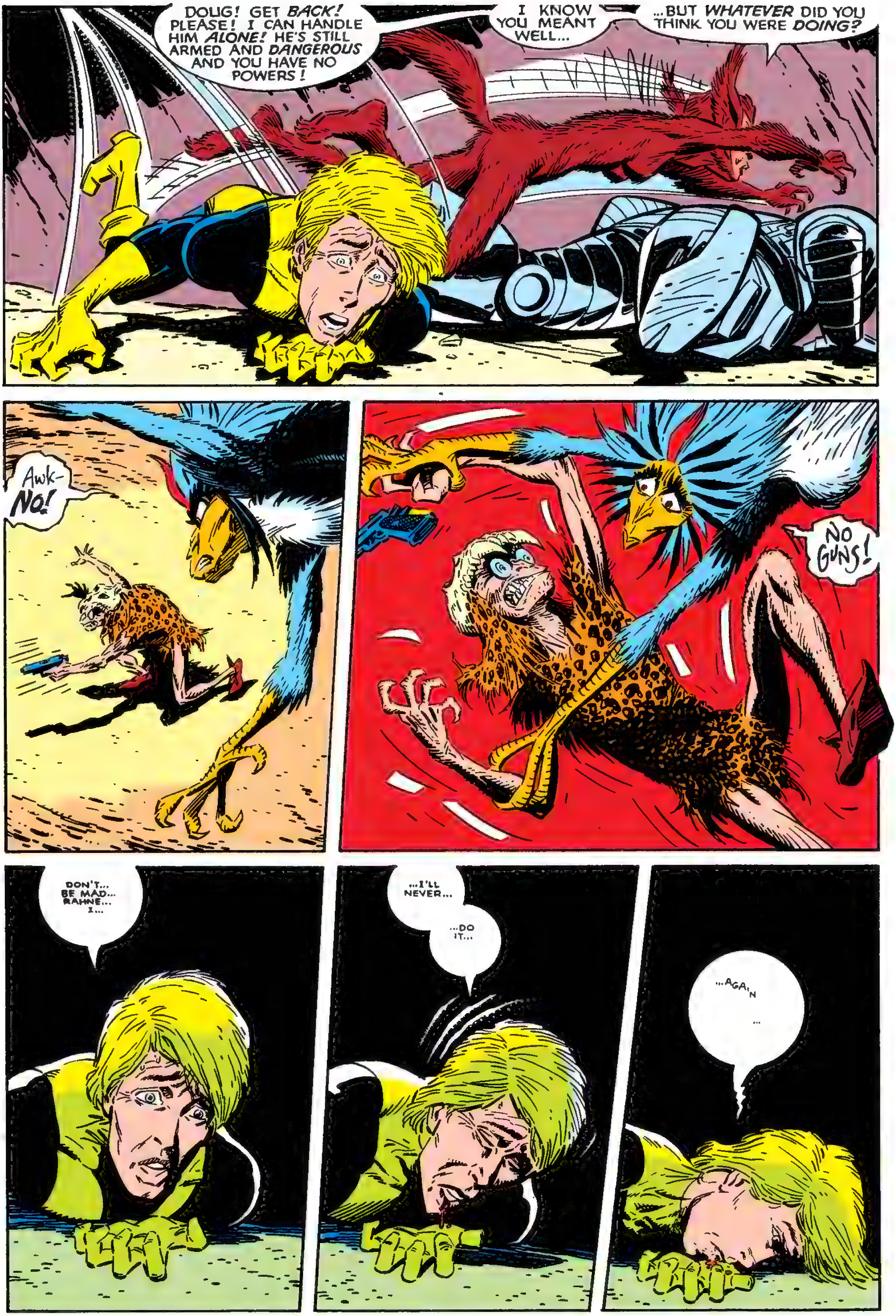
AND SOON...
THE SCIENTIST IS SECURED! NOW GET THE MUTANTS ON BOARD AND PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF!
No!
FRI=awk=ENDS!
BIRD-BRAIN! YOU WONDERFUL CREATURE!
HEY!
CHONK!
NO KIDDING! GOOD MOVE, PAL!
BUT LISTEN! THESE SMILE-FACES HAVE GUNS! NOW THAT YOU'VE FREED US, KEEP BACK AND LET US DO THE FIGHTING!
YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH!
No!
Af=arwk=fraid! RAN=SQUAWK=island! Now=squaak=FIGHT! ALL fight!
GET IT, RAHNE? HE THINKS HE ACTED LIKE A COWARD WHEN HE ESCAPED AND CAME TO US!
HE SAYS HE CAN'T RUN AWAY THIS TIME!
HE WON'T!

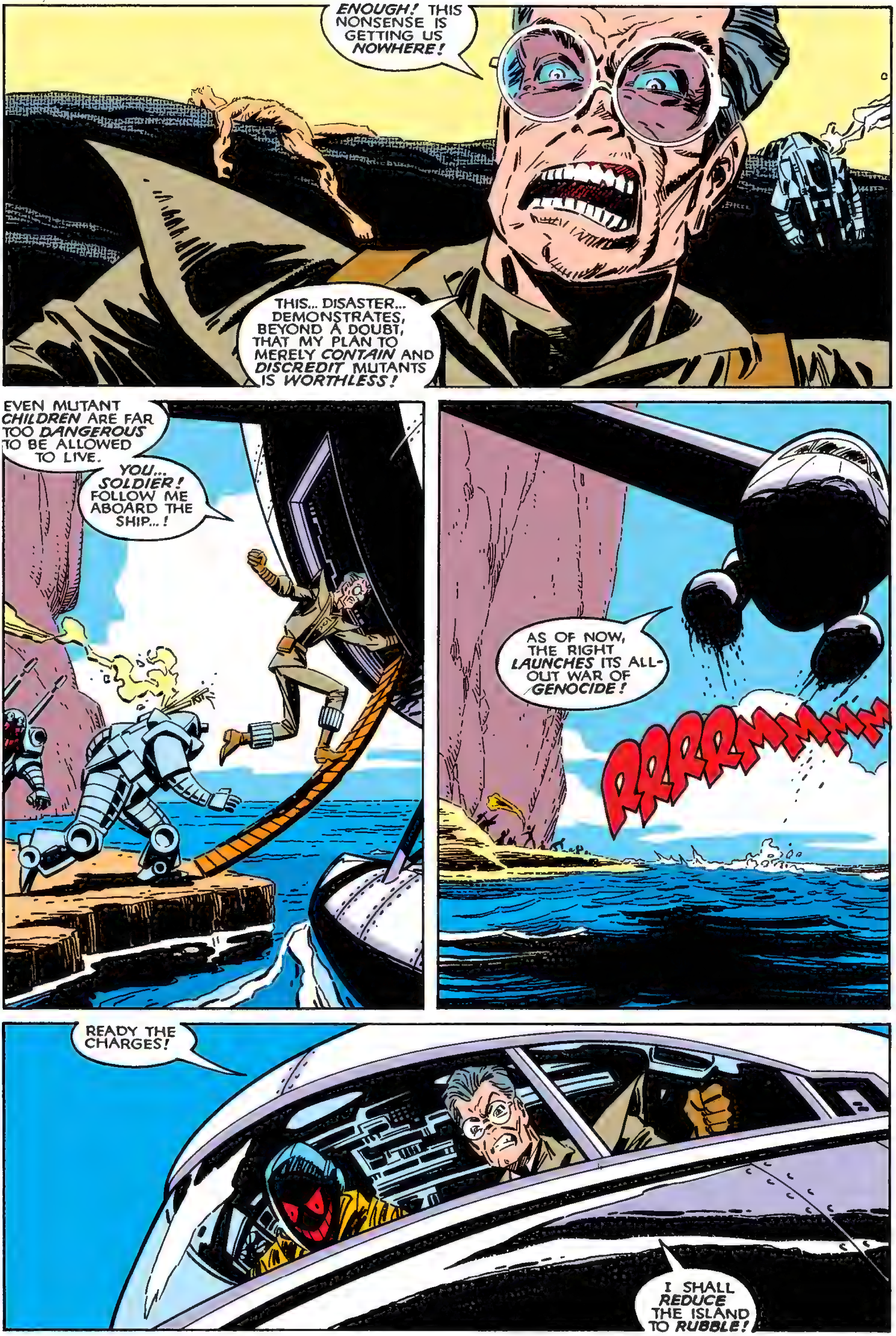

Sssceasssse!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
RRIP!
NONE OF THEM WILL RUN!
ANI-MATES, *LISTEN* TO ME!
BITE THROUGH THE STRAPS ON CANNONBALL AND MAGIK'S HELMETS!
CHOMP
CRU-tik-CHUNK!
AWRIGHT! THE *MUTIES* ARE BACK IN *ACTION!*

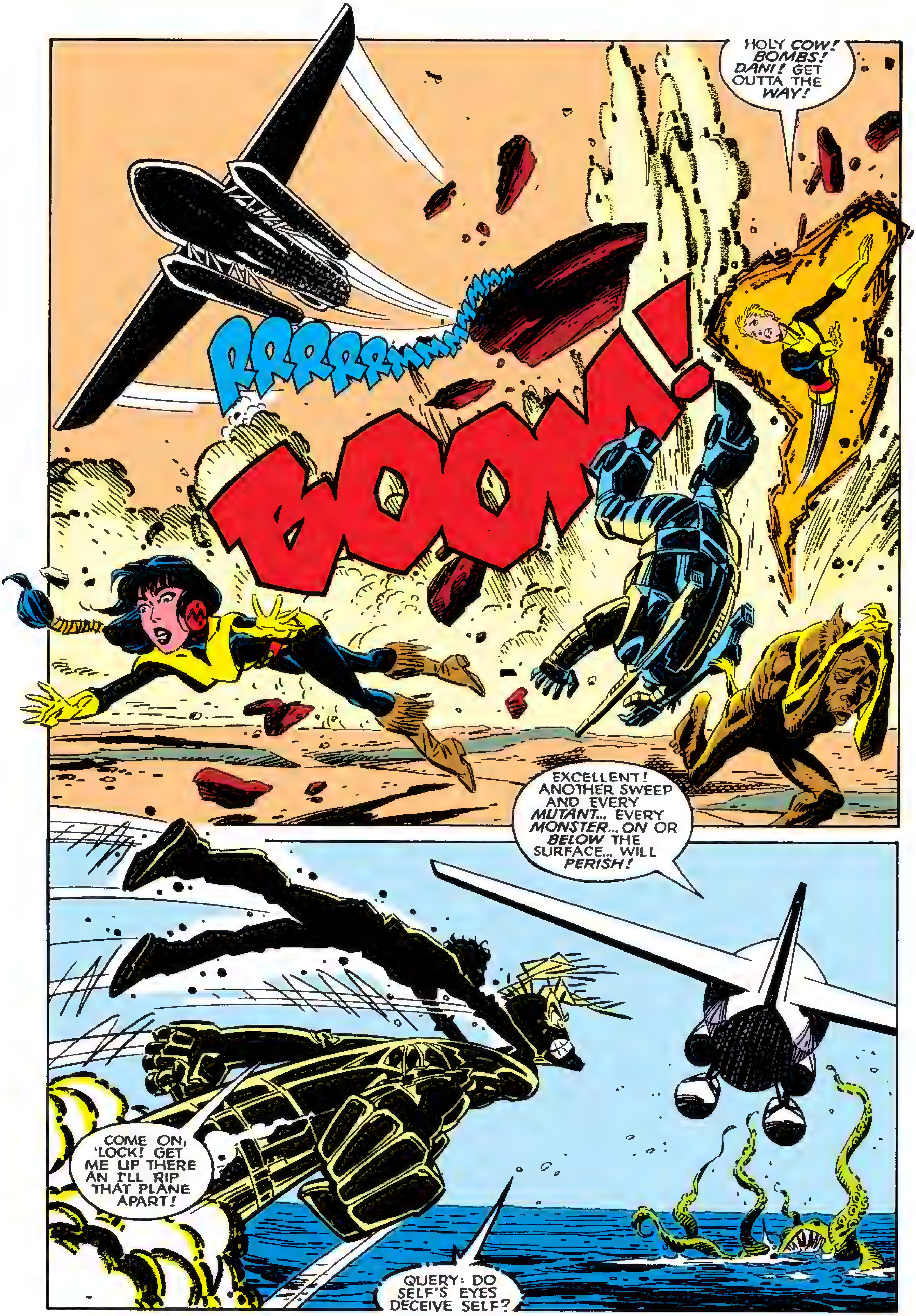

CHUMK!
KA-THUD!
WHERE THE HECK AM-- IIIIEEE!
HEY, WARLOCK! I THINK WE FOUND 'EM!
SELF IS PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE FINICH!
WARLOCK! SUNSPOT! MAN oh MAN! JUST THE ADVANTAGE WE NEEDED!
BAM!
BIFF!
WE THOUGHT YOU RAN AWAY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
EXPLANATION: SELF HAS COME TO RESCUE SELF'S MUCH EMBATTLED DEARFRIENDS-NEWMUTANTS!
WHAP WHAP WHAP WHAP
RIP!
SNAP
YEAH! IT SURE LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY HAS TO!

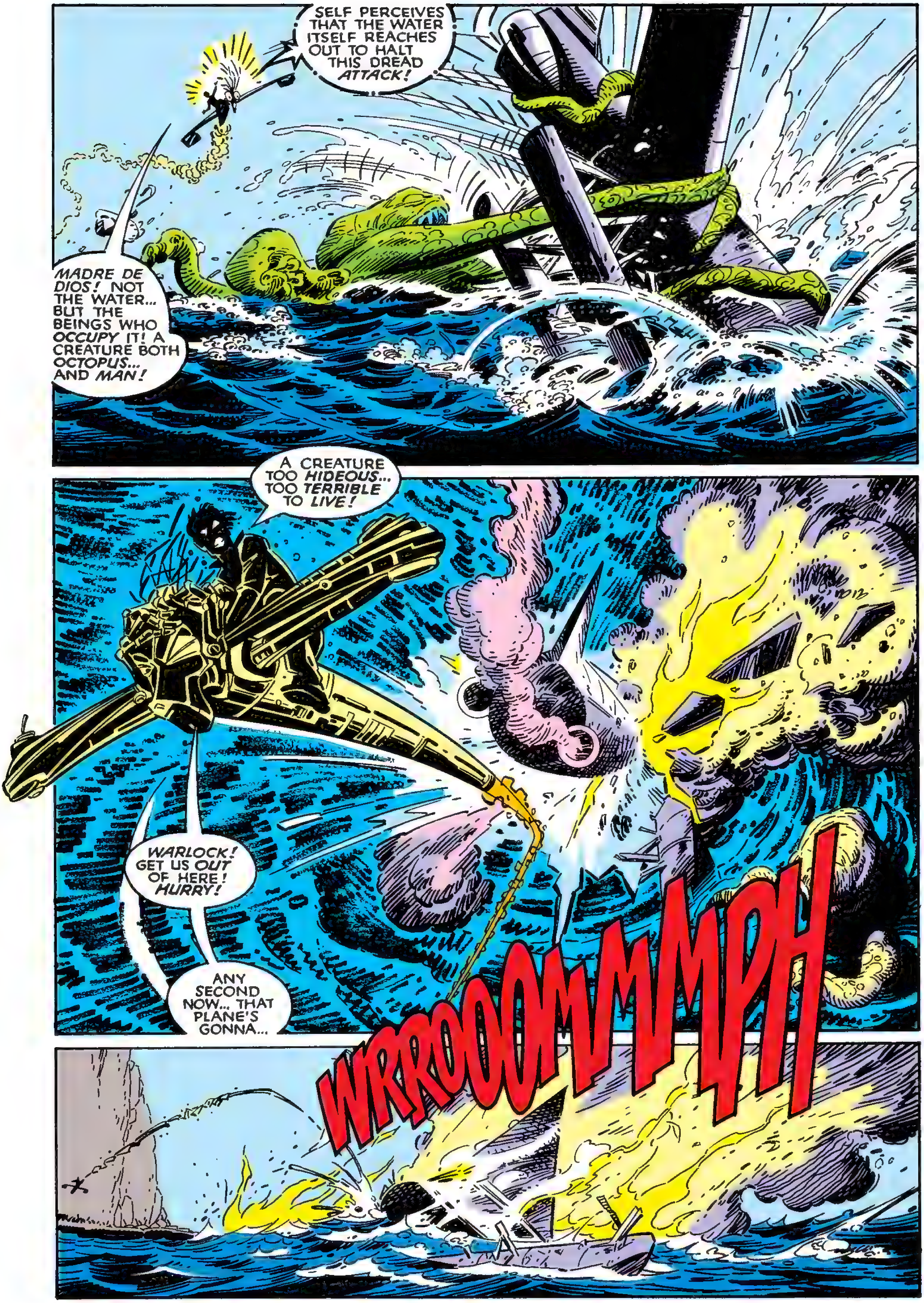

AND SELF IS EVER READY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO--
DOUG...? SELF-*DEAREST*-FRIEND*DOUG*...?
YEAH, 'LOCK, IT'S *ME!* SELFFRIEND OLE PAL, YOU CAN'T *IMAGINE* HOW MUCH I MISSED YOU!
SELF MISSED YOU, TOO, DEARFRIEND.
REAL *TOUCHING*, MONSTER!
GUYS LIKE *ME*... *WE* DON'T MISS *NOTHIN'*!
WARLOCK! NO! WATCH *OUT!*
BUDDA-BUDDA!
BUDDA-BUDDA
EXCLAMATION: *HEAD* DOWN, DEARFRIENDOUG, LEST YOU *LOSE* IT!
KEEP SAFE! JOYOUS REUNION MUST AWAIT DEFEAT OF VILLAINS!
MAN, WHAT A *DRAG! WARLOCK'S* FIGHTING THOSE *SMILE FACES*...
CHONK!
...THEY *ALL* ARE...
...AND THE BEST I CAN DO IS *HIDE* AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE...
...'CAUSE IF I TRY TO HELP, I JUST *DISTRACT* THEM AND PUT THEM IN MORE *DANGER!*
SPLASH!


THERE ARE TOO MANY *SUPER-SOLDIERS!* AND THEY ARE TOO *WELL ARMED!*
THE MUTANTS AND MY ANI-MATES *COMBINED* STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST THEM!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
WAP!
THUMP!
BUT HODGE HAS FORGOTTEN ME -*hee hee*- AND HIS PLANE HAS PROVIDED ME WITH A *WEAPON!*
THE *WOLF-GIRL* ATTACKS A RIGHT *SOLDIER!* PITIABLE!
SLAM!
WUMP!
BLAM BLAM
SHE DOESN'T -*hee hee*- HAVE A PRAYER! I MUST *DO* SOMETHING!
AND I *SHALL!*
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
RAHNE! HE'S GOT A *GUN!*
OF *COURSE* HE DOES, YOU SILLY! KEEP BACK, DOUG, I'LL SOON WRENCH IT FROM HIM!
I WILL PROTECT MY *INTERESTS!* IF I CAN'T HAVE THE MUTANT...
...*NOBODY WILL!*
BLAM BLAM BLAM
RAHNE! *WATCH OUT!*
WOLF GIRL! YOU *AND* YOUR MUTIE BUDDY'RE *HAMBURGER!*

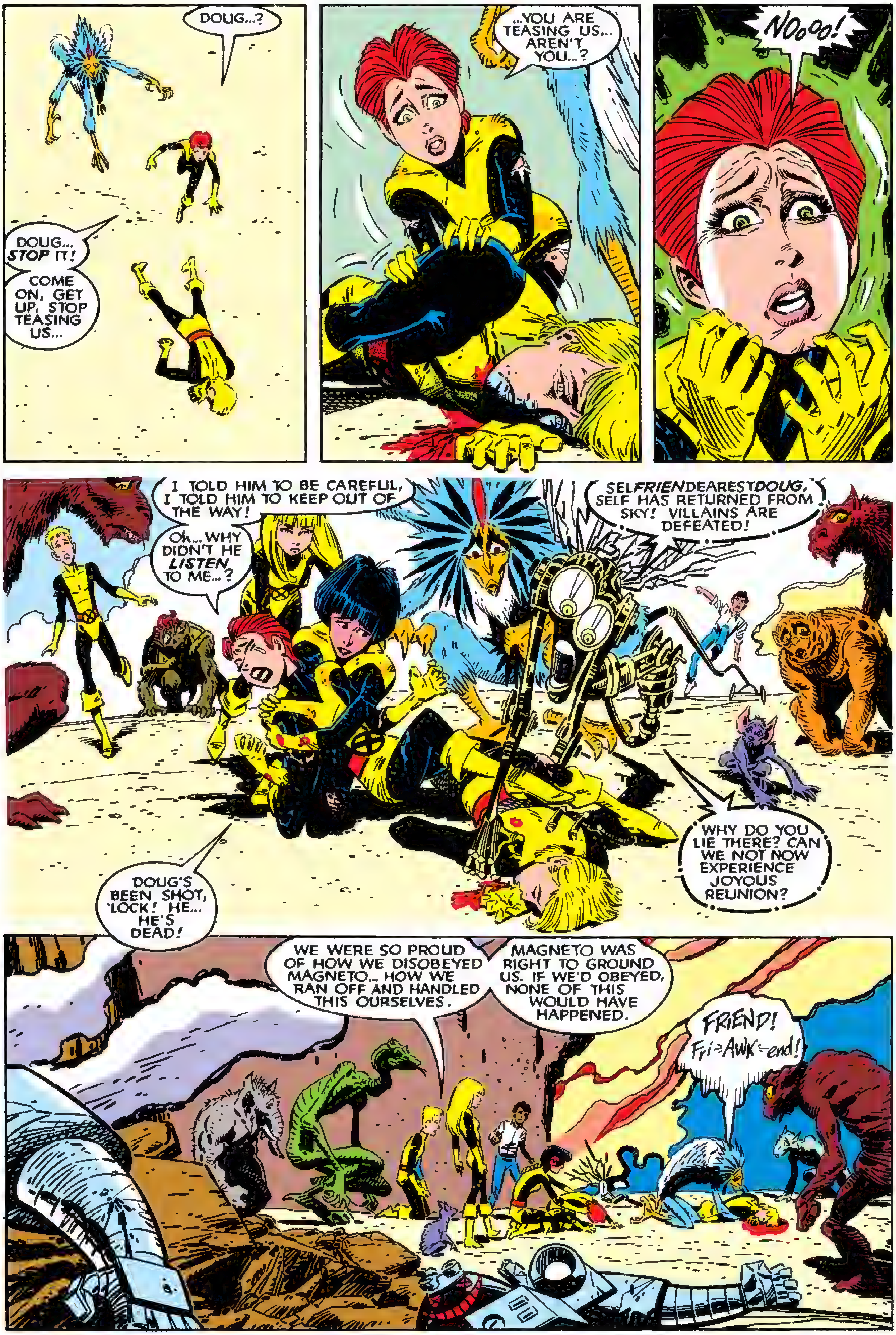

DOUG! GET *BACK!* PLEASE! I CAN HANDLE HIM *ALONE!* HE'S STILL ARMED AND *DANGEROUS* AND YOU HAVE NO POWERS!
I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL...
...BUT *WHATEVER* DID YOU THINK YOU WERE *DOING?*
Awk-NO!
NO GUNS!
DON'T... BE MAD... RAHNE... I...
...I'LL NEVER...
...DO IT...
...AGAIN
...

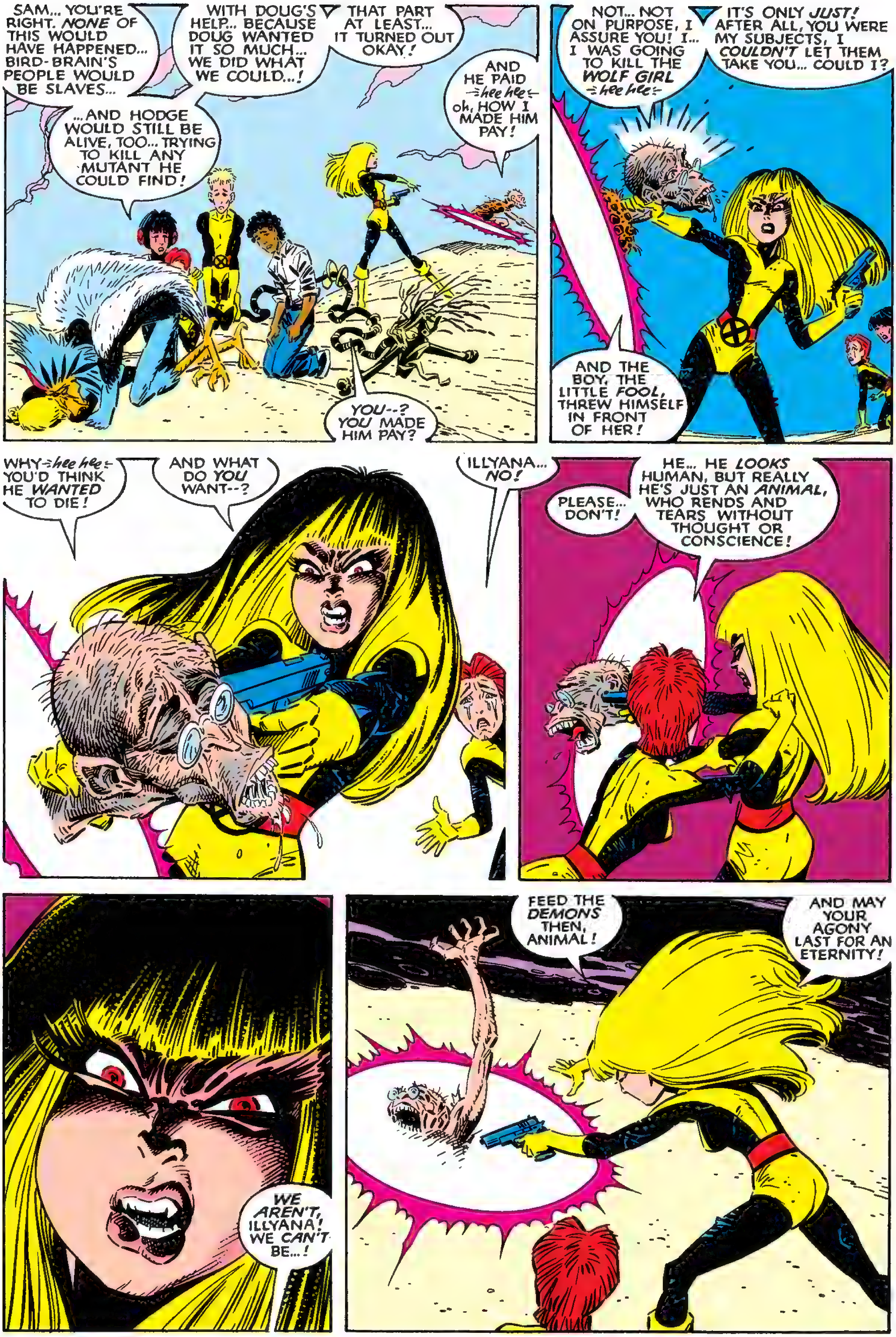

ENOUGH! THIS NONSENSE IS GETTING US NOWHERE!
THIS... DISASTER... DEMONSTRATES, BEYOND A DOUBT, THAT MY PLAN TO MERELY CONTAIN AND DISCREDIT MUTANTS IS WORTHLESS!
EVEN MUTANT CHILDREN ARE FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.
YOU... SOLDIER! FOLLOW ME ABOARD THE SHIP...!
AS OF NOW, THE RIGHT LAUNCHES ITS ALL-OUT WAR OF GENOCIDE!
RRRRMMMM
READY THE CHARGES!
I SHALL REDUCE THE ISLAND TO RUBBLE!

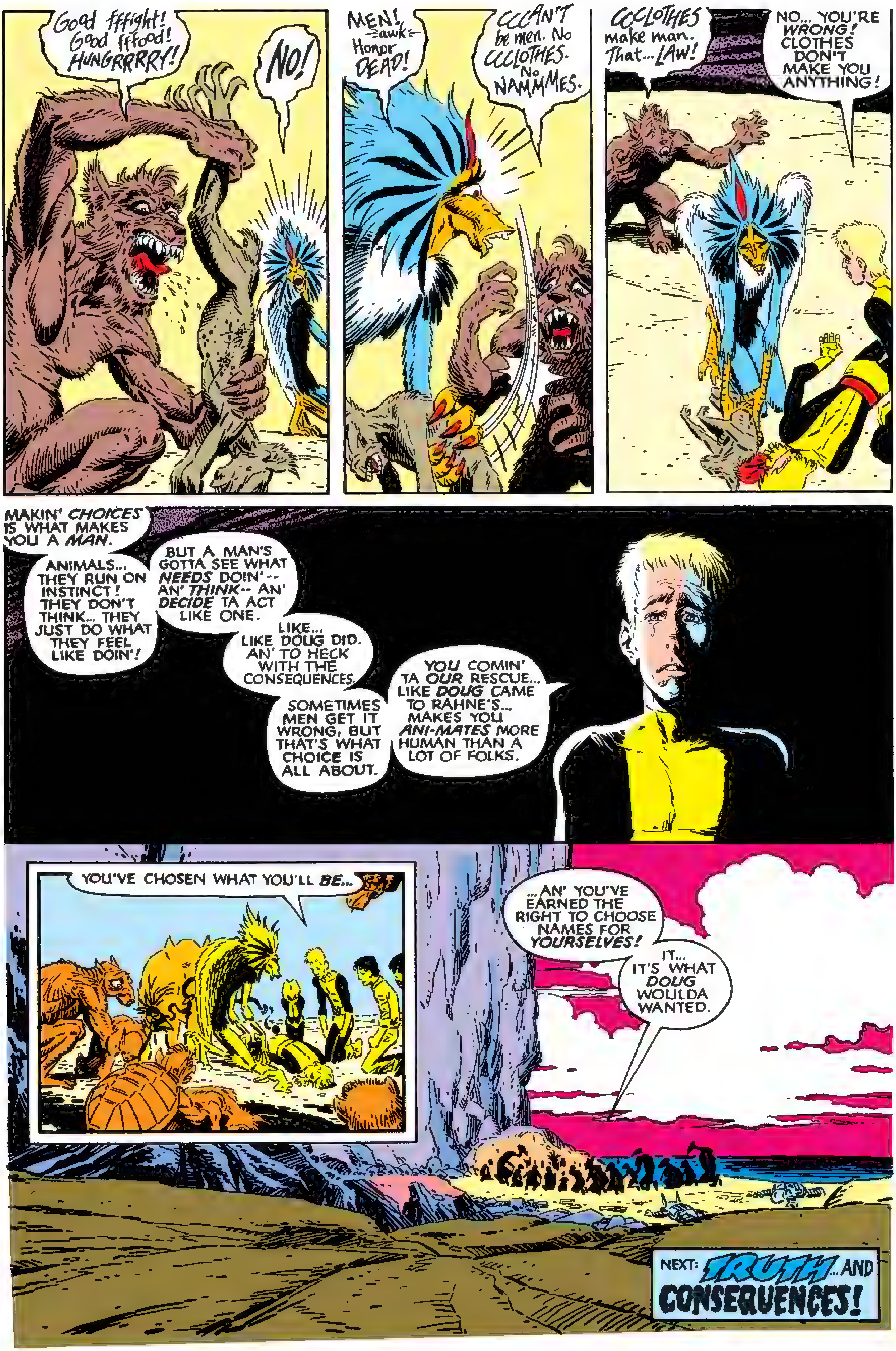

HOLY COW! BOMBS! DANI! GET OUTTA THE WAY!
RRRRRMMMMMMMM
BOOM!
EXCELLENT! ANOTHER SWEEP AND EVERY MUTANT... EVERY MONSTER... ON OR BELOW THE SURFACE... WILL PERISH!
COME ON, 'LOCK! GET ME UP THERE AN' I'LL RIP THAT PLANE APART!
QUERY: DO SELF'S EYES DECEIVE SELF?


SELF PERCEIVES THAT THE WATER ITSELF REACHES OUT TO HALT THIS DREAD *ATTACK!*
MADRE DE DIOS! NOT THE WATER... BUT THE BEINGS WHO *OCCUPY* IT! A CREATURE BOTH *OCTOPUS*... AND *MAN!*
A CREATURE TOO *HIDEOUS*... TOO *TERRIBLE* TO *LIVE!*
WARLOCK! GET US *OUT* OF HERE! *HURRY!*
ANY SECOND NOW... THAT PLANE'S GONNA...
WRROOOMMMPH

WHILE BACK ON SHORE...
ATTEND ME, CREATURE! THERE WERE TO BE NO STRANGERS! NOT A ONE! NOT EVER-- ON MY ISLAND!
KILL THE STRANGERS-- THAT IS THE LAW! AND YET YOU LED THEM HERE! FIRST THE YOUNG MUTANTS...
...THEN HODGE AND HIS RIGHT-HAND MEN -hee hee- IF MEN THERE REALLY ARE BENEATH THAT ARMOR!
Ah, WHAT A BATTLE! THEY CAME... THEY SAW... BUT THE MUTANTS HAVE CONQUERED -hee hee- WHAT SUBJECTS THEY WOULD HAVE MADE!
YOU... MY BEST... MY FINEST CREATION...
...YOU HAVE DESTROYED ME! AND I...? I WILL DESTROY--
CHOK!
Win -AWK-?
Win -awk-! WIN! Ani-mates FREE!
AT LAST, AT LAST!
Oh, BIRD-BRAIN, I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU! AND YOU WON, AND HAVE THE CROWN... OR WHATEVER IT IS...
...SO I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU THE LEADER AND...
...oh, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!
DOUG, DOUG, WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT NOW! COME AND CONGRATULATE HIM!
Oh... RAHNE... oh, NO!
WHAT... WHAT IS IT, DANI?
DOUG!


DOUG...?
DOUG... **STOP** IT!
COME ON, GET UP, STOP TEASING US...
...YOU ARE TEASING US... AREN'T YOU...?
NOooo!
I TOLD HIM TO BE CAREFUL, I TOLD HIM TO KEEP OUT OF THE WAY!
Oh... WHY DIDN'T HE **LISTEN** TO ME...?
SELF*FRIEND*DEAREST*DOUG*, SELF HAS RETURNED FROM SKY! VILLAINS ARE DEFEATED!
WHY DO YOU LIE THERE? CAN WE NOT NOW EXPERIENCE JOYOUS REUNION?
DOUG'S BEEN SHOT, 'LOCK! HE... HE'S DEAD!
WE WERE SO PROUD OF HOW WE DISOBEYED MAGNETO... HOW WE RAN OFF AND HANDLED THIS OURSELVES.
MAGNETO WAS RIGHT TO GROUND US. IF WE'D OBEYED, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
FRIEND! Fri-AWK-end!

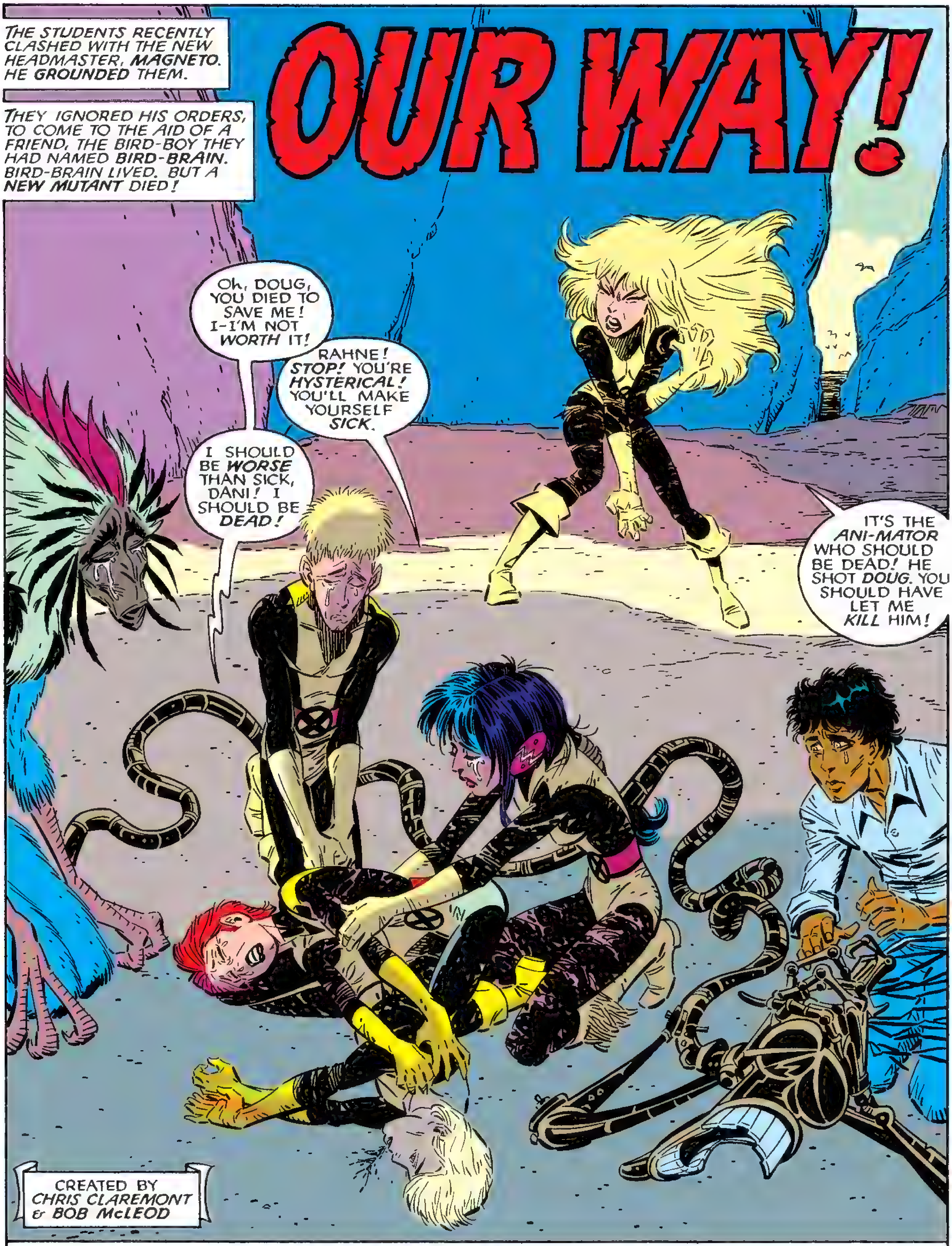

SAM... YOU'RE RIGHT. *NONE* OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED... BIRD-BRAIN'S PEOPLE WOULD BE SLAVES...
WITH DOUG'S HELP... BECAUSE DOUG WANTED IT SO MUCH... WE DID WHAT WE COULD...!
THAT PART AT LEAST... IT TURNED OUT OKAY!
...AND HODGE WOULD STILL BE ALIVE, TOO... TRYING TO KILL ANY MUTANT HE COULD FIND!
AND HE PAID —*hee hee*— oh, HOW I MADE HIM PAY!
YOU--? YOU MADE HIM PAY?
NOT... NOT ON PURPOSE, I ASSURE YOU! I... I WAS GOING TO KILL THE *WOLF GIRL* —*hee hee*—
IT'S ONLY *JUST!* AFTER ALL, YOU WERE MY SUBJECTS, I *COULDN'T* LET THEM TAKE YOU... COULD I?
AND THE BOY, THE LITTLE *FOOL*, THREW HIMSELF IN FRONT OF HER!
WHY —*hee hee*— YOU'D THINK HE *WANTED* TO DIE!
AND WHAT DO *YOU* WANT--?
ILLYANA... *NO!*
PLEASE... DON'T!
HE... HE *LOOKS* HUMAN, BUT REALLY HE'S JUST AN *ANIMAL*, WHO RENDS AND TEARS WITHOUT THOUGHT OR CONSCIENCE!
WE AREN'T, ILLYANA! WE *CAN'T* BE...!
FEED THE *DEMONS* THEN, ANIMAL!
AND MAY YOUR AGONY LAST FOR AN ETERNITY!


Good fffight! Good fffood! HUNGRRRRY!
NO!
MEN! awk Honor DEAD!
CCCAN'T be men. No CCCLOTHES. No NAMMMES.
CCCLOTHES make man. That... LAW!
NO... YOU'RE WRONG! CLOTHES DON'T MAKE YOU ANYTHING!
MAKIN' CHOICES IS WHAT MAKES YOU A MAN.
ANIMALS... THEY RUN ON INSTINCT! THEY DON'T THINK... THEY JUST DO WHAT THEY FEEL LIKE DOIN'!
BUT A MAN'S GOTTA SEE WHAT NEEDS DOIN'-- AN' THINK-- AN' DECIDE TA ACT LIKE ONE.
LIKE... LIKE DOUG DID. AN' TO HECK WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.
SOMETIMES MEN GET IT WRONG, BUT THAT'S WHAT CHOICE IS ALL ABOUT.
YOU COMIN' TA OUR RESCUE... LIKE DOUG CAME TO RAHNE'S... MAKES YOU ANI-MATES MORE HUMAN THAN A LOT OF FOLKS.
YOU'VE CHOSEN WHAT YOU'LL BE...
...AN' YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE NAMES FOR YOURSELVES!
IT... IT'S WHAT DOUG WOULDA WANTED.
NEXT: TRUTH... AND CONSEQUENCES!

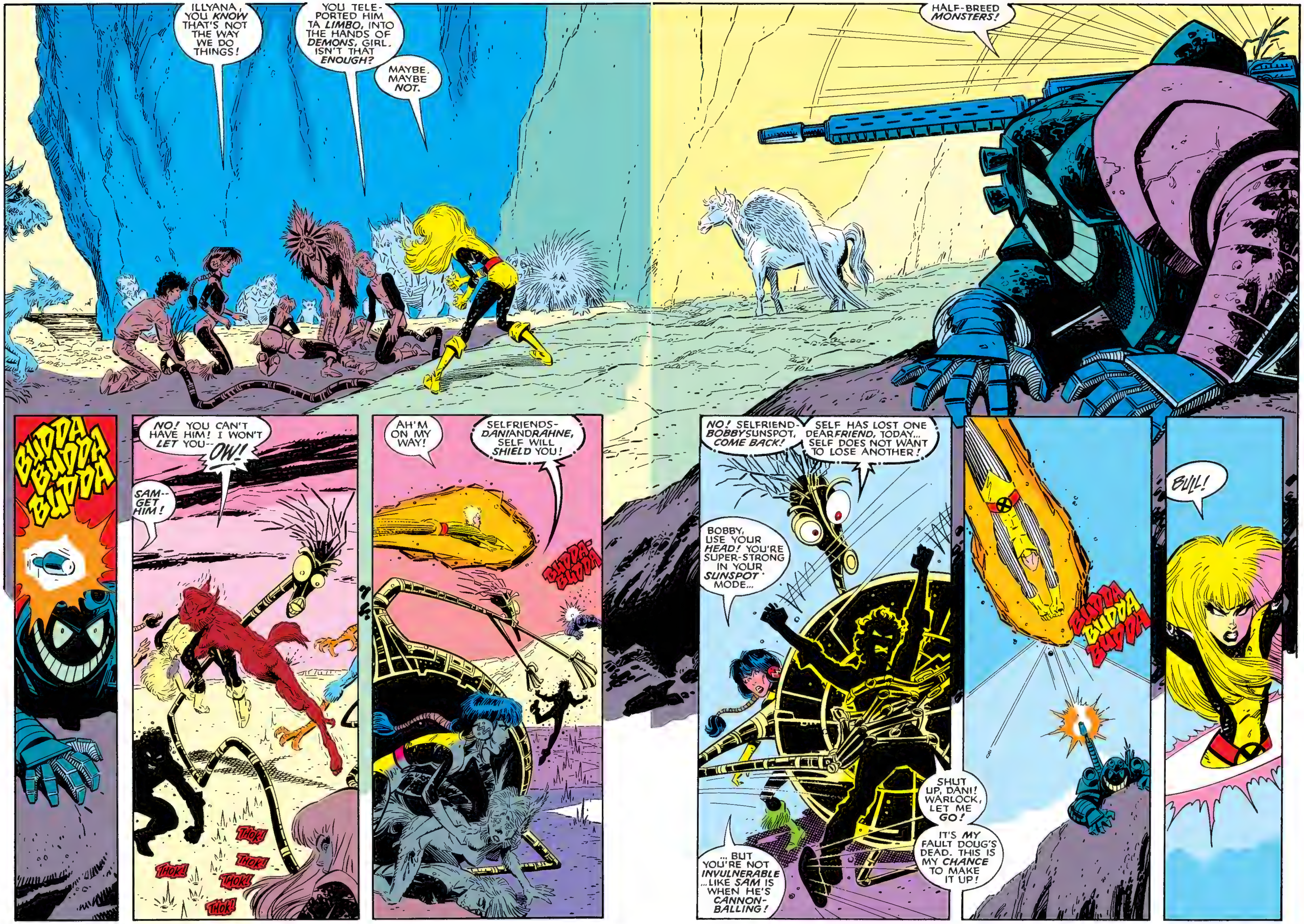
MARVEL
THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS
THE NEW MUTANTS
75¢ US
95¢ CAN
61
MAR
CC 02207
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

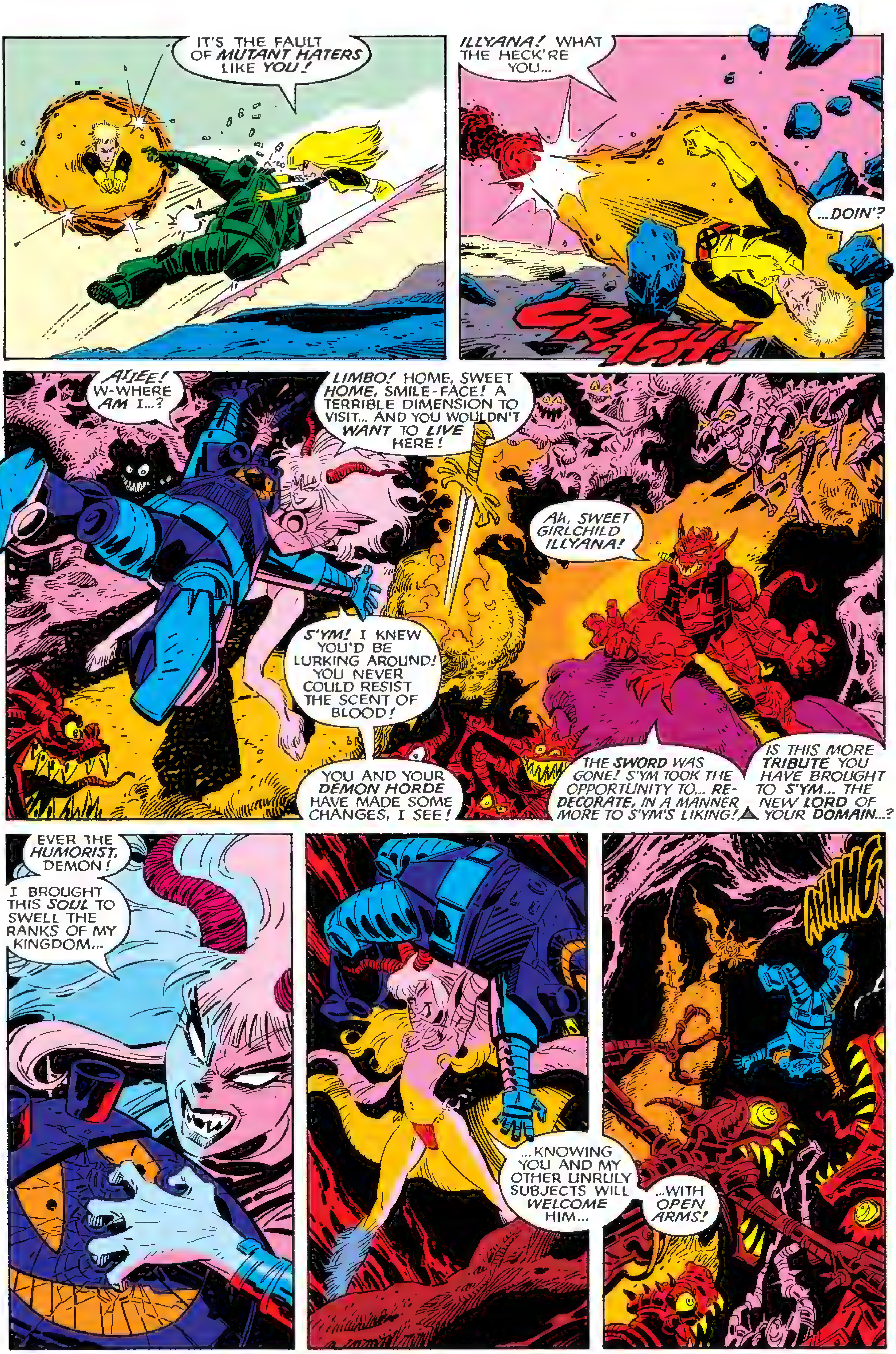
THE TEENAGERS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS ARE MUTANTS... PARA-HUMAN BEINGS, BORN WITH A TWIST IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS.

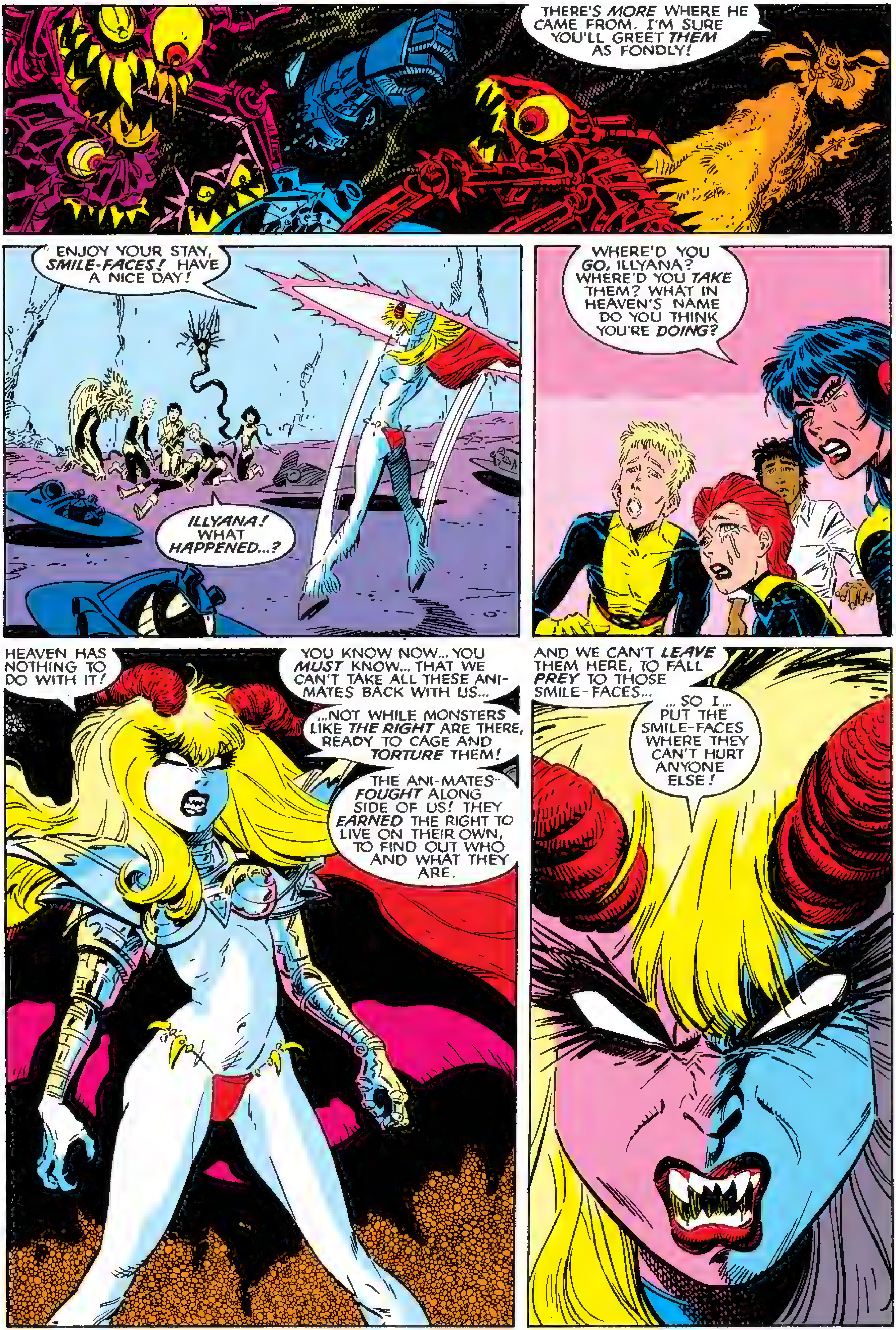
OUR WAY!

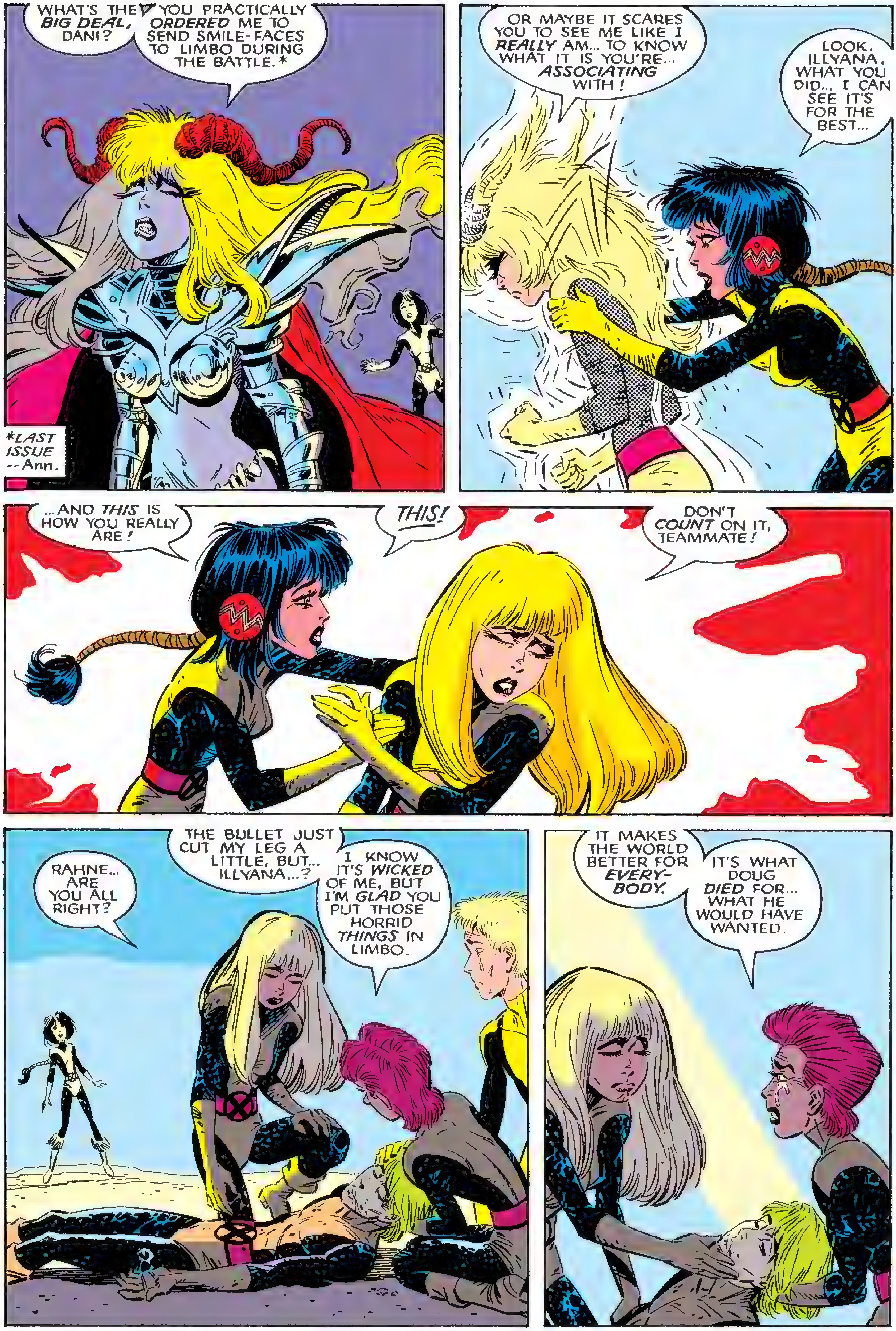

THE STUDENTS RECENTLY CLASHED WITH THE NEW HEADMASTER, **MAGNETO**. HE **GROUNDED** THEM.
THEY IGNORED HIS ORDERS, TO COME TO THE AID OF A FRIEND, THE BIRD-BOY THEY HAD NAMED **BIRD-BRAIN**. BIRD-BRAIN LIVED. BUT A **NEW MUTANT** DIED!
OH, DOUG, YOU DIED TO SAVE ME! I-I'M NOT *WORTH* IT!
RAHNE! *STOP!* YOU'RE *HYSTERICAL!* YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF *SICK.*
I SHOULD BE *WORSE* THAN SICK, DANI! I SHOULD BE *DEAD!*
IT'S THE *ANI-MATOR* WHO SHOULD BE DEAD! HE SHOT *DOUG.* YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME *KILL* HIM!
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

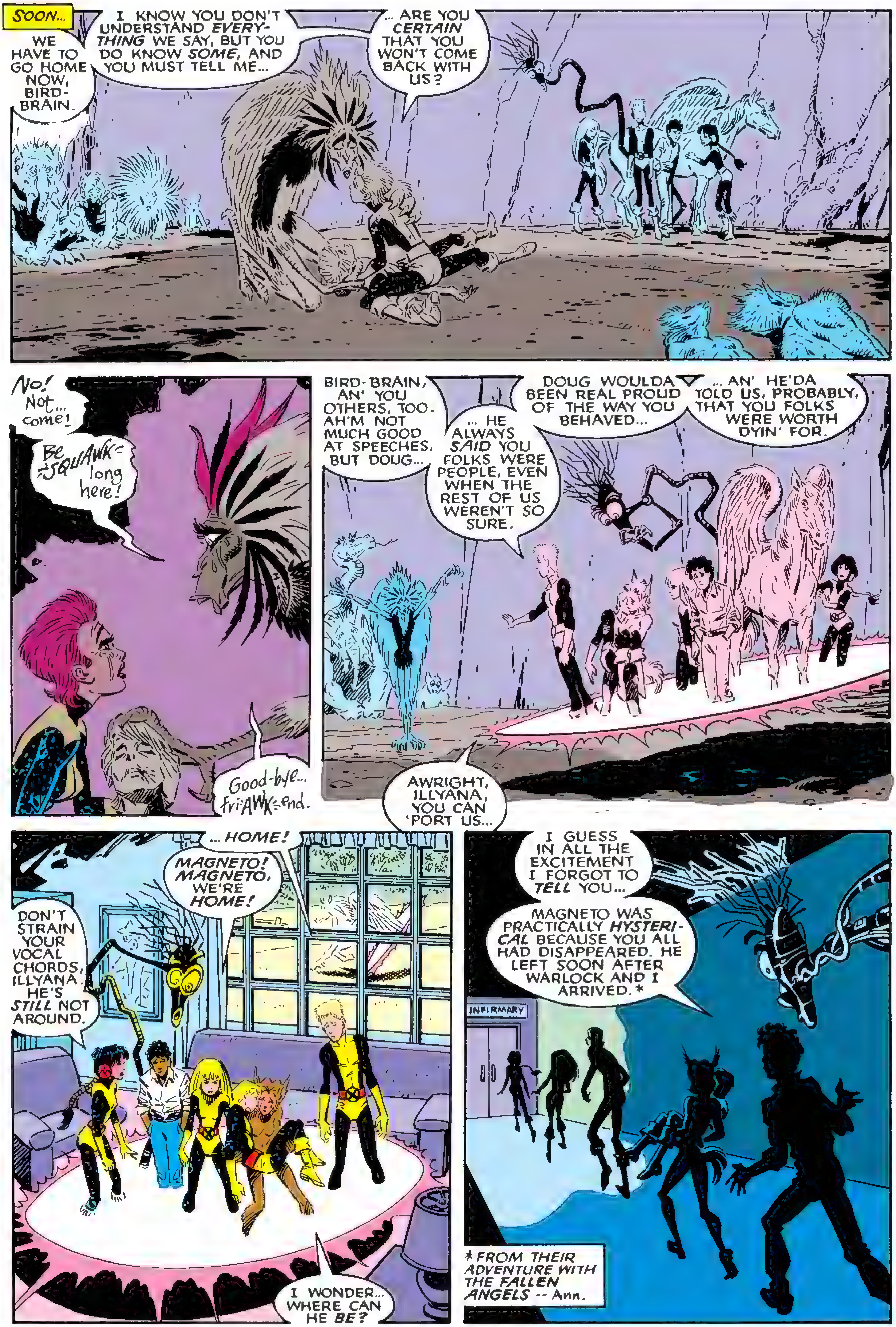
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · *BRET BLEVINS* PENCILER · *TERRY AUSTIN* INKER · *TOM ORZECHOWSKI*, LETTERER · *BILL WRAY*, COLORIST · *ANN NOCENTI* EDITOR · *TOM DeFALCO* EDITOR IN CHIEF

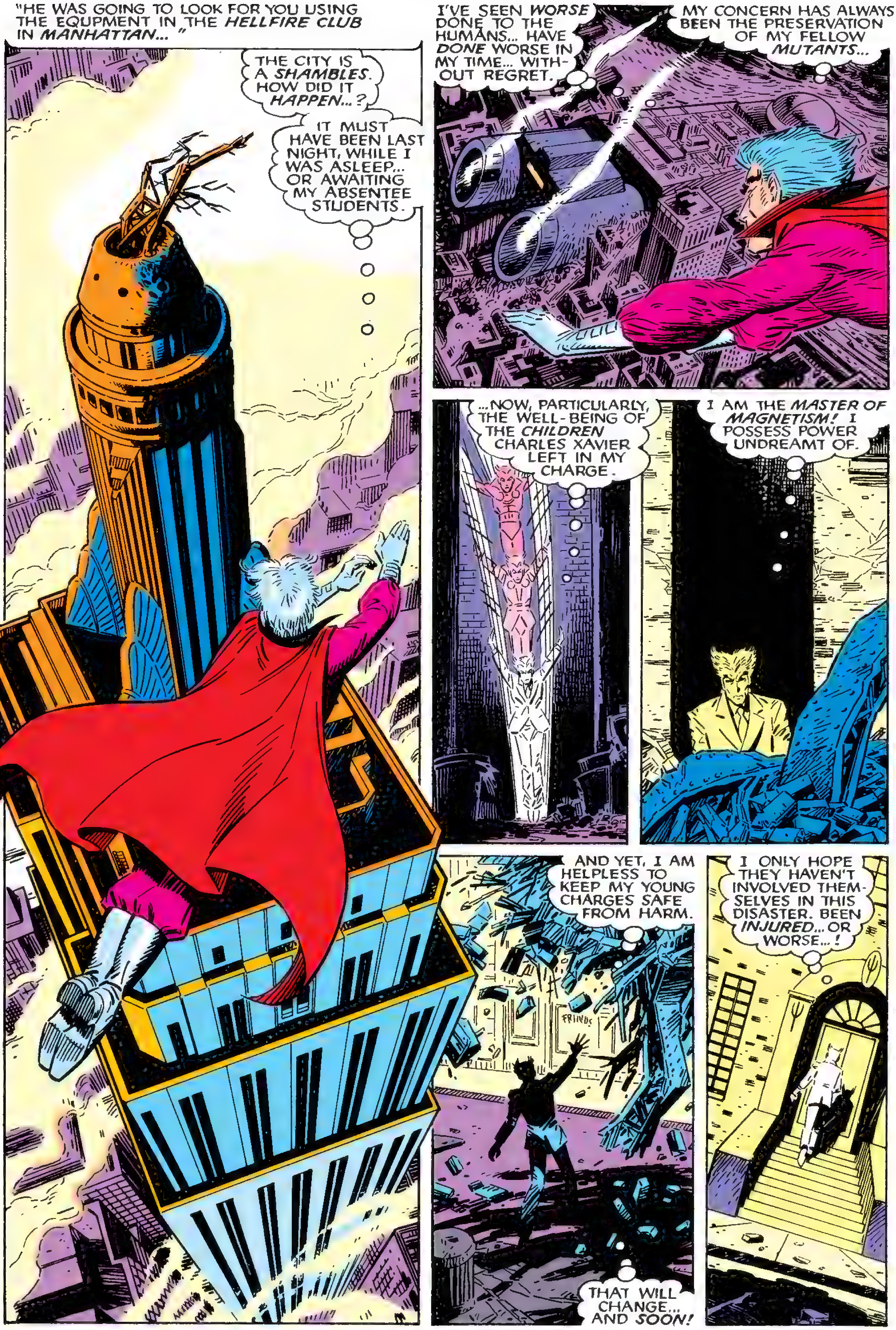

ILLYANA, YOU *KNOW* THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE DO THINGS!
YOU TELEPORTED HIM TA *LIMBO*, INTO THE HANDS OF *DEMONS*, GIRL. ISN'T THAT *ENOUGH?*
MAYBE. MAYBE *NOT*.
HALF-BREED *MONSTERS!*
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM! I WON'T *LET* YOU--*OW!*
SAM-- GET HIM!
THOK! THOK! THOK! THOK! THOK!
AH'M ON MY WAY!
SELFRIENDS-*DANIANDRAHNE*, SELF WILL *SHIELD* YOU!
BUDDA-BUDDA
NO! SELFRIEND-*BOBBYSUNSPOT*, *COME BACK!*
SELF HAS LOST ONE DEAR*FRIEND*, TODAY... SELF DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE ANOTHER!
BOBBY, USE YOUR *HEAD!* YOU'RE SUPER-STRONG IN YOUR *SUNSPOT* MODE...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT *INVULNERABLE* ...LIKE *SAM* IS WHEN HE'S *CANNON-BALLING!*
SHUT UP, DANI! WARLOCK, LET ME *GO!*
IT'S *MY* FAULT DOUG'S DEAD. THIS IS MY *CHANCE* TO MAKE IT UP!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BULL!

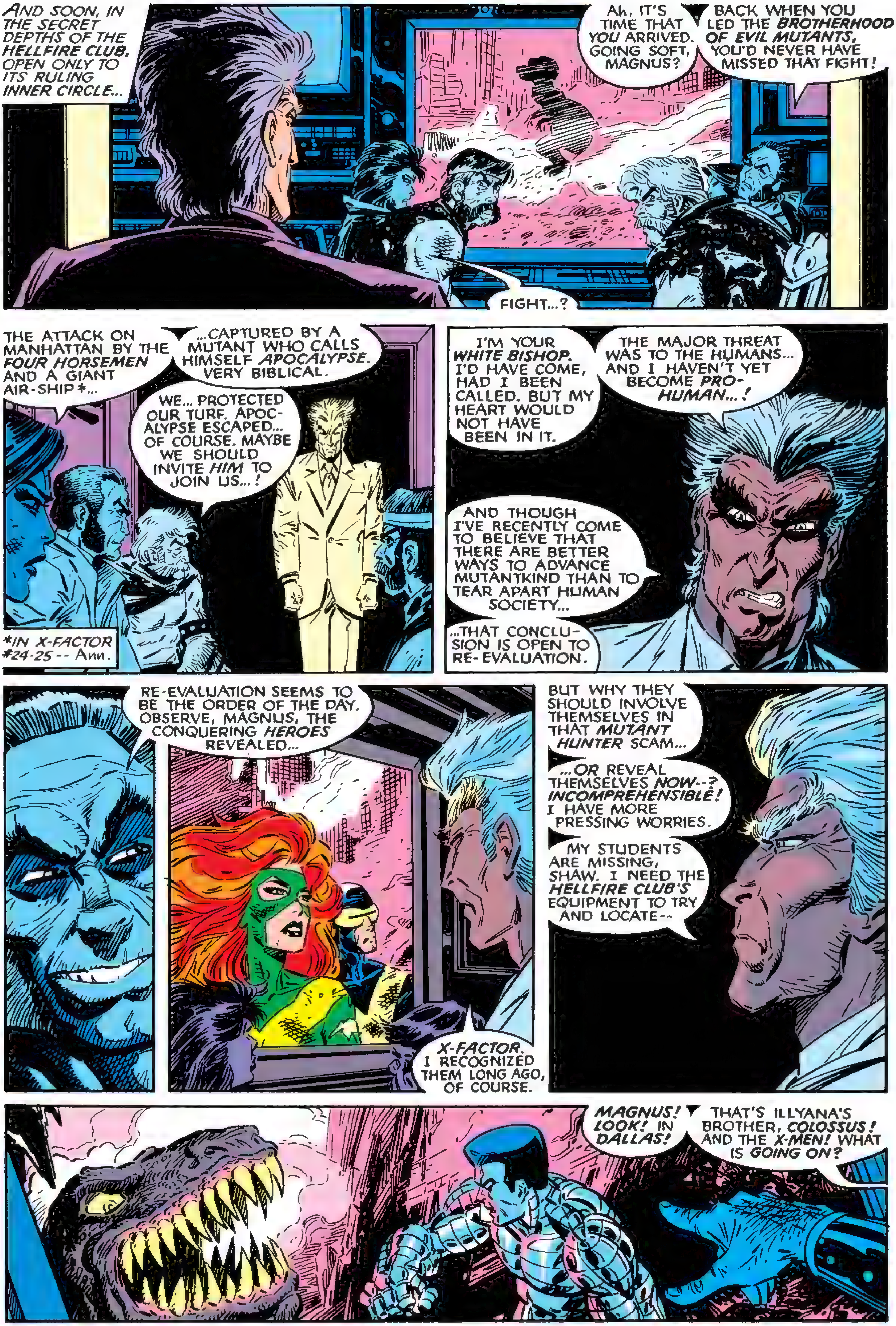

IT'S THE FAULT OF *MUTANT HATERS* LIKE *YOU!*
ILLYANA! WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU...
...DOIN'?
CRASH!
AIIEE! W-WHERE *AM* I...?
LIMBO! HOME, SWEET *HOME,* SMILE-FACE! A TERRIBLE DIMENSION TO VISIT... AND YOU WOULDN'T *WANT* TO *LIVE* HERE!
AH, SWEET GIRLCHILD ILLYANA!
S'YM! I KNEW YOU'D BE LURKING AROUND! YOU NEVER COULD RESIST THE SCENT OF BLOOD!
YOU AND YOUR *DEMON HORDE* HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES, I SEE!
*THE **SWORD** WAS GONE! S'YM TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO... **RE-DECORATE,** IN A MANNER MORE TO S'YM'S LIKING!* ▲
*IS THIS MORE **TRIBUTE** YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO **S'YM**... THE NEW **LORD** OF YOUR **DOMAIN**...?*
EVER THE *HUMORIST,* DEMON!
I BROUGHT THIS *SOUL* TO SWELL THE RANKS OF MY KINGDOM...
...KNOWING YOU AND MY OTHER UNRULY SUBJECTS WILL *WELCOME* HIM...
...WITH OPEN ARMS!
AHHHG

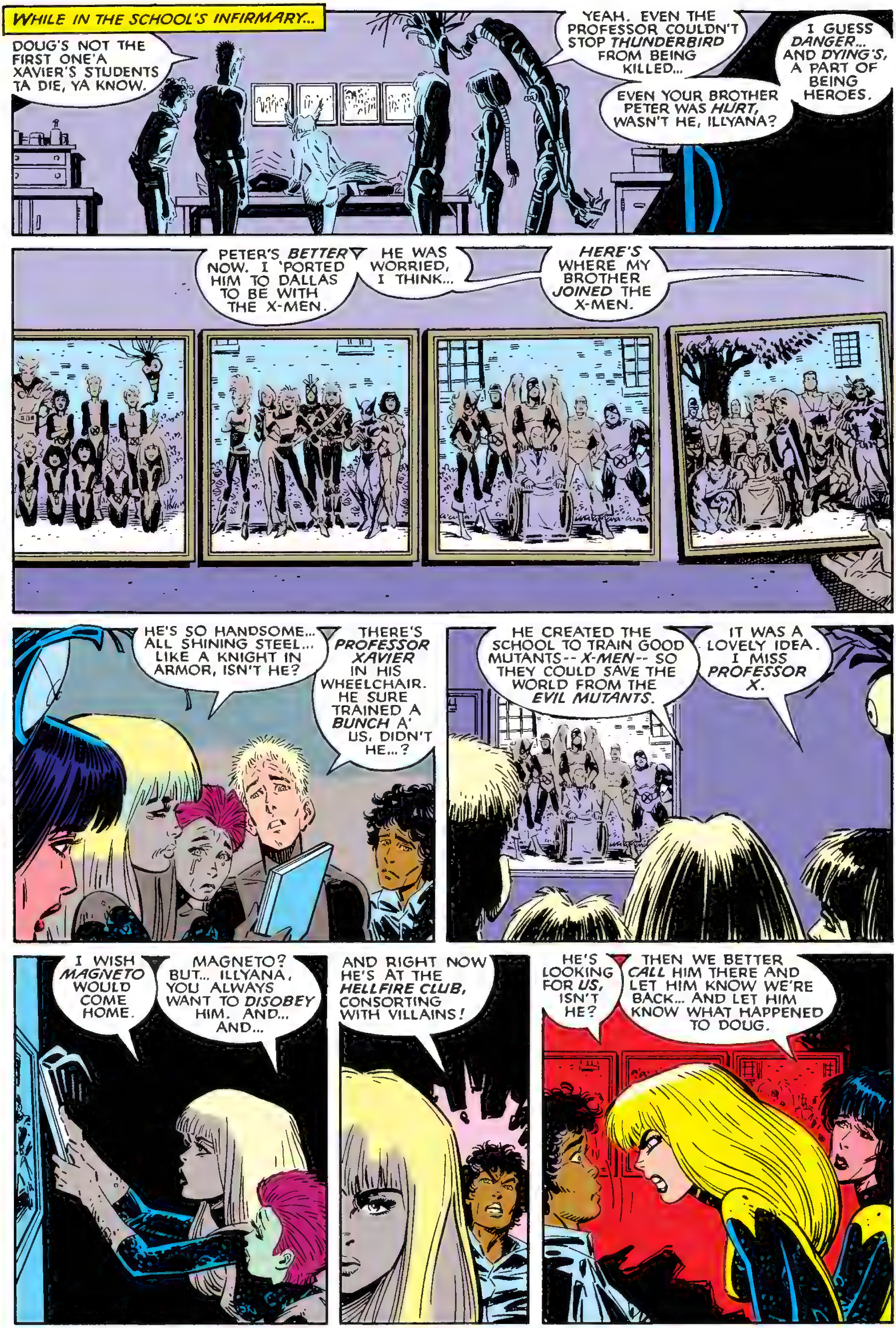

THERE'S *MORE* WHERE HE CAME FROM. I'M SURE YOU'LL GREET *THEM* AS FONDLY!
ENJOY YOUR STAY, *SMILE-FACES!* HAVE A NICE DAY!
ILLYANA! WHAT *HAPPENED...?*
WHERE'D YOU *GO,* ILLYANA? WHERE'D YOU *TAKE* THEM? WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*
HEAVEN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
YOU KNOW NOW... YOU *MUST* KNOW... THAT WE CAN'T TAKE ALL THESE ANI-MATES BACK WITH US...
...NOT WHILE MONSTERS LIKE *THE RIGHT* ARE THERE, READY TO CAGE AND *TORTURE* THEM!
THE ANI-MATES *FOUGHT* ALONGSIDE OF US! THEY *EARNED* THE RIGHT TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN, TO FIND OUT WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE.
AND WE CAN'T *LEAVE* THEM HERE, TO FALL *PREY* TO THOSE SMILE-FACES...
...SO I... PUT THE SMILE-FACES WHERE THEY CAN'T HURT ANYONE ELSE!

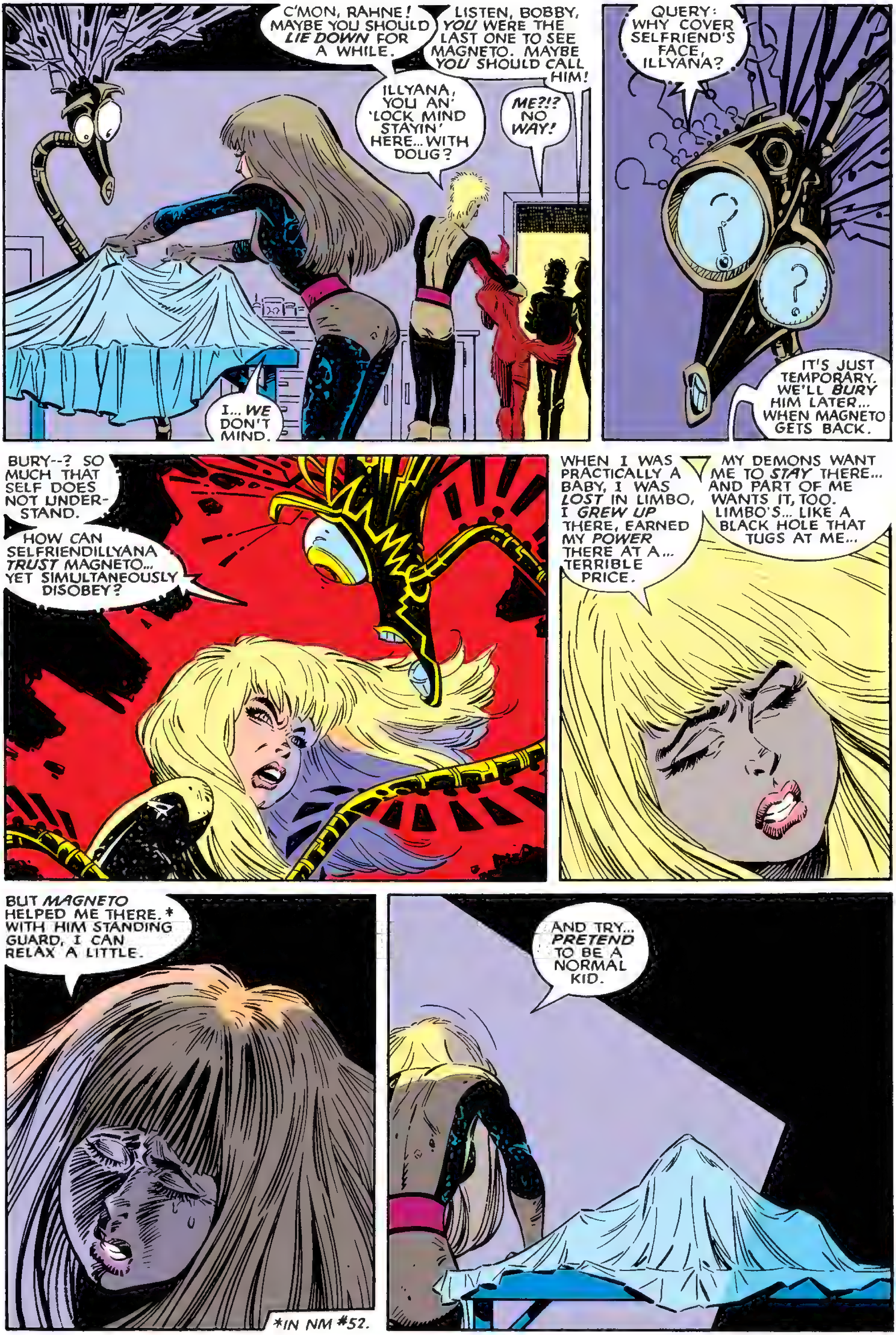

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, DANI?
YOU PRACTICALLY ORDERED ME TO SEND SMILE-FACES TO LIMBO DURING THE BATTLE.*
*LAST ISSUE --Ann.
OR MAYBE IT SCARES YOU TO SEE ME LIKE I REALLY AM... TO KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE... ASSOCIATING WITH!
LOOK, ILLYANA, WHAT YOU DID... I CAN SEE IT'S FOR THE BEST...
...AND THIS IS HOW YOU REALLY ARE!
THIS!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, TEAMMATE!
RAHNE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE BULLET JUST CUT MY LEG A LITTLE, BUT... ILLYANA...?
I KNOW IT'S WICKED OF ME, BUT I'M GLAD YOU PUT THOSE HORRID THINGS IN LIMBO.
IT MAKES THE WORLD BETTER FOR EVERYBODY.
IT'S WHAT DOUG DIED FOR... WHAT HE WOULD HAVE WANTED.

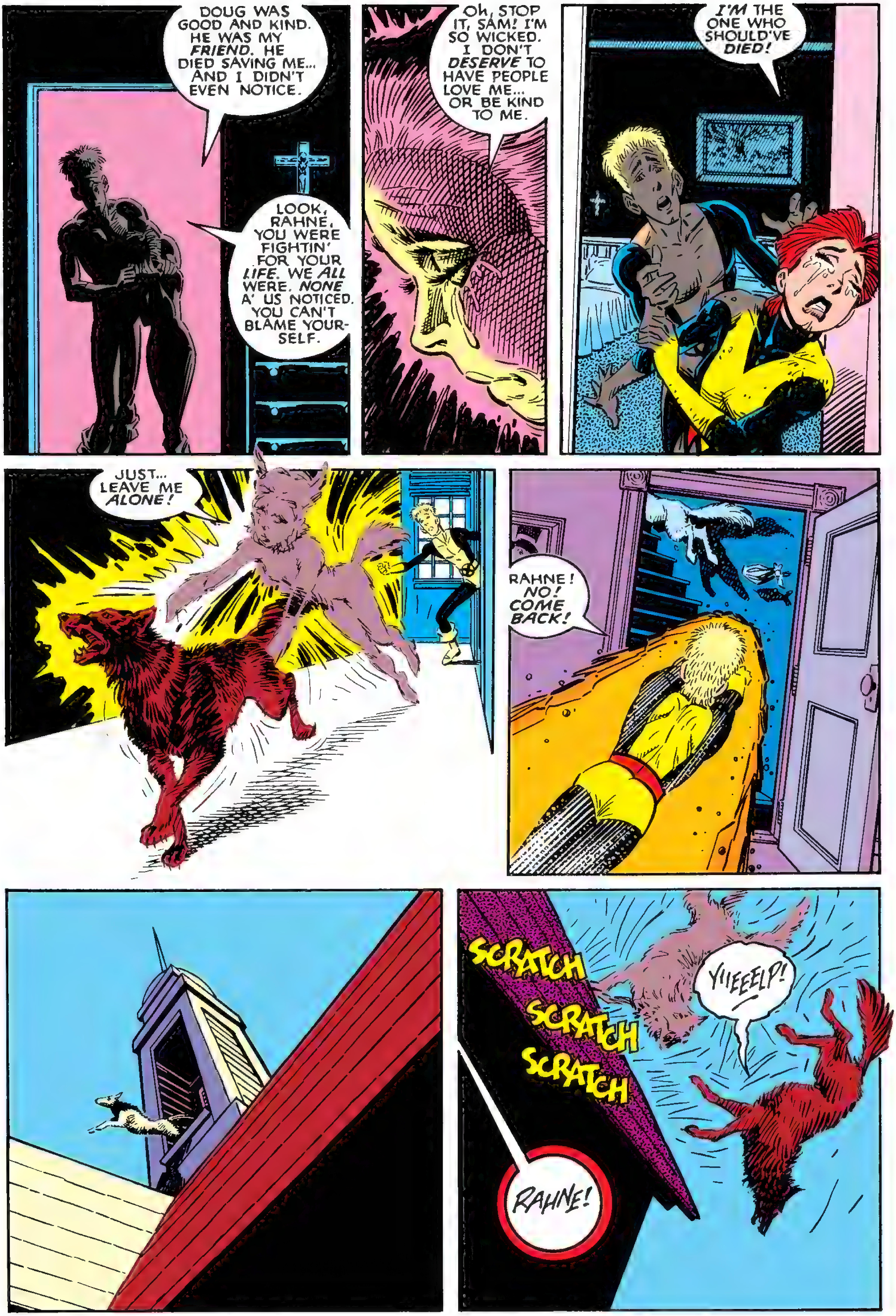

SOON...
WE HAVE TO GO HOME NOW, BIRD-BRAIN.
I KNOW YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND *EVERYTHING* WE SAY, BUT YOU DO KNOW *SOME*, AND YOU MUST TELL ME...
... ARE YOU *CERTAIN* THAT YOU WON'T COME BACK WITH US?
No! Not... come!
Be-SQUAWK-long here!
Good-bye... fri-AWK-end.
BIRD-BRAIN, AN' YOU OTHERS, TOO. AH'M NOT MUCH GOOD AT SPEECHES, BUT DOUG...
... HE ALWAYS *SAID* YOU FOLKS WERE PEOPLE, EVEN WHEN THE REST OF US WEREN'T SO SURE.
DOUG WOULDA BEEN REAL PROUD OF THE WAY YOU BEHAVED...
... AN' HE'DA TOLD US, PROBABLY, THAT YOU FOLKS WERE WORTH DYIN' FOR.
AWRIGHT, ILLYANA, YOU CAN 'PORT US...
... HOME!
MAGNETO! MAGNETO, WE'RE *HOME!*
DON'T STRAIN YOUR VOCAL CHORDS, ILLYANA. HE'S *STILL* NOT AROUND.
I WONDER... WHERE CAN HE *BE?*
I GUESS IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT I FORGOT TO *TELL* YOU...
MAGNETO WAS PRACTICALLY *HYSTERICAL* BECAUSE YOU ALL HAD DISAPPEARED. HE LEFT SOON AFTER WARLOCK AND I ARRIVED.*
INFIRMARY
*FROM THEIR ADVENTURE WITH THE FALLEN ANGELS -- Ann.

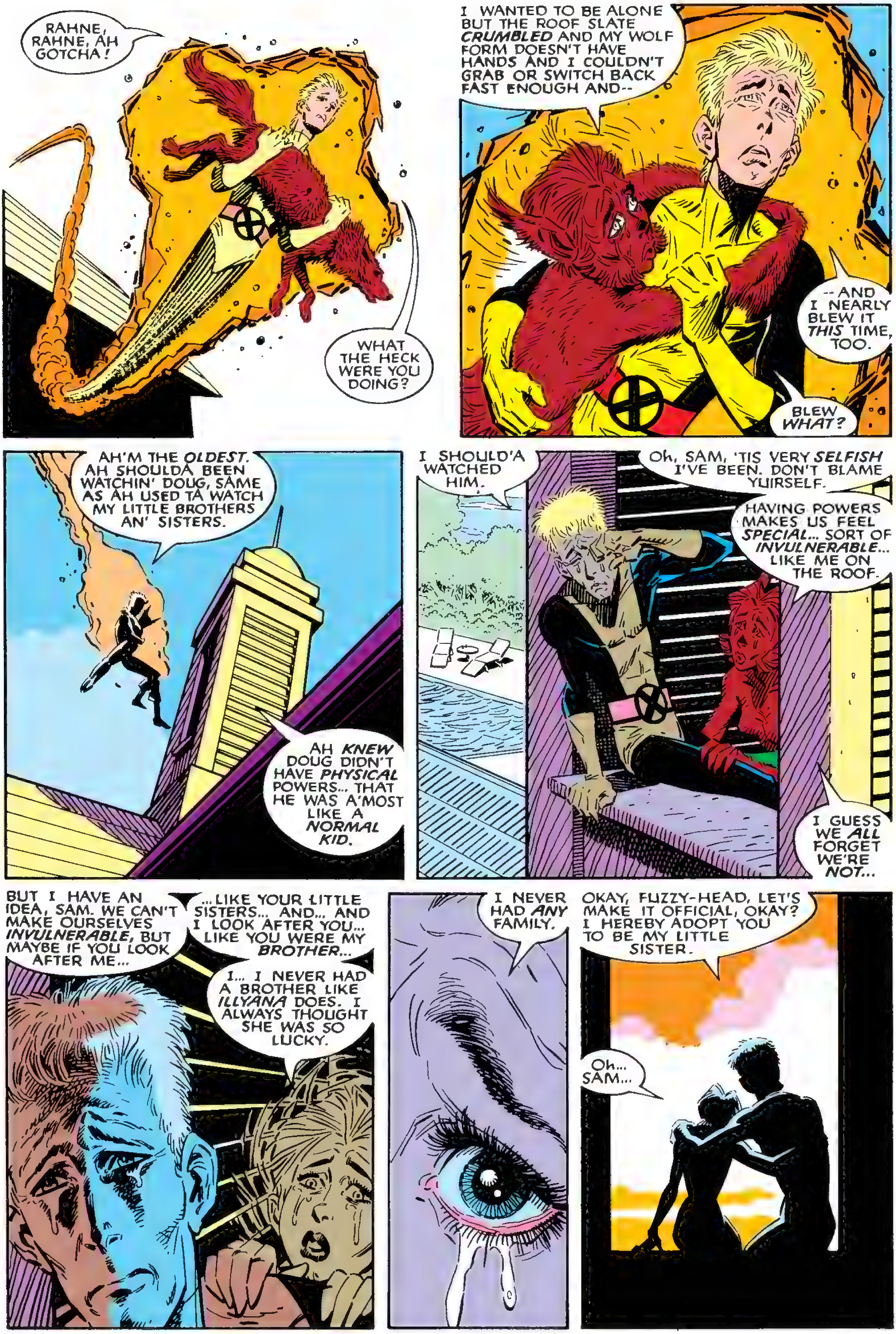

"HE WAS GOING TO LOOK FOR YOU USING THE EQUIPMENT IN THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* IN *MANHATTAN*..."
THE CITY IS A *SHAMBLES*. HOW DID IT *HAPPEN*...?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN LAST NIGHT, WHILE I WAS ASLEEP... OR AWAITING MY ABSENTEE STUDENTS.
I'VE SEEN *WORSE* DONE TO THE HUMANS... HAVE *DONE* WORSE IN MY TIME... WITHOUT REGRET.
MY CONCERN HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRESERVATION OF MY FELLOW *MUTANTS*...
...NOW, PARTICULARLY, THE WELL-BEING OF THE *CHILDREN* CHARLES XAVIER LEFT IN MY CHARGE.
I AM THE *MASTER OF MAGNETISM!* I POSSESS POWER UNDREAMT OF.
AND YET, I AM HELPLESS TO KEEP MY YOUNG CHARGES SAFE FROM HARM.
THAT WILL CHANGE... AND *SOON!*
I ONLY HOPE THEY HAVEN'T INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THIS DISASTER. BEEN *INJURED*... OR WORSE...!

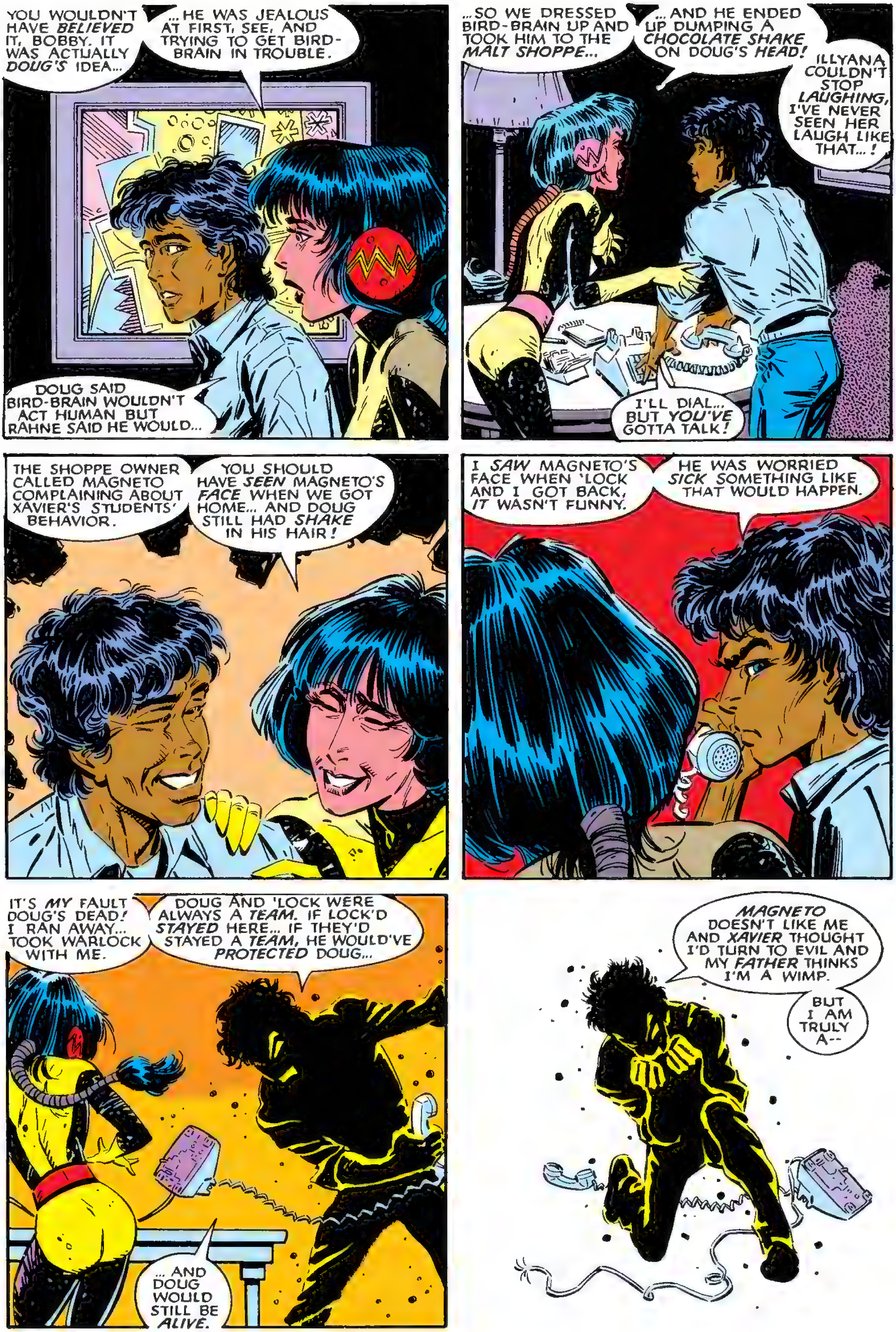

AND SOON, IN THE SECRET DEPTHS OF THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*, OPEN ONLY TO ITS RULING INNER CIRCLE...
AH, IT'S TIME THAT *YOU* ARRIVED. GOING SOFT, MAGNUS?
BACK WHEN YOU LED THE *BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS*, YOU'D NEVER HAVE MISSED THAT FIGHT!
FIGHT...?
THE ATTACK ON MANHATTAN BY THE *FOUR HORSEMEN* AND A GIANT AIR-SHIP*...
...CAPTURED BY A MUTANT WHO CALLS HIMSELF *APOCALYPSE*. VERY BIBLICAL.
WE... PROTECTED OUR TURF. APOCALYPSE ESCAPED... OF COURSE. MAYBE WE SHOULD INVITE *HIM* TO JOIN US...!
*IN X-FACTOR #24-25 -- Ann.
I'M YOUR *WHITE BISHOP*. I'D HAVE COME, HAD I BEEN CALLED. BUT MY HEART WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN IT.
THE MAJOR THREAT WAS TO THE HUMANS... AND I HAVEN'T YET BECOME *PRO-HUMAN...!*
AND THOUGH I'VE RECENTLY COME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO ADVANCE MUTANTKIND THAN TO TEAR APART HUMAN SOCIETY...
...THAT CONCLUSION IS OPEN TO RE-EVALUATION.
RE-EVALUATION SEEMS TO BE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. OBSERVE, MAGNUS, THE CONQUERING *HEROES* REVEALED...
X-FACTOR. I RECOGNIZED THEM LONG AGO, OF COURSE.
BUT WHY THEY SHOULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THAT *MUTANT HUNTER* SCAM...
...OR REVEAL THEMSELVES *NOW*--? *INCOMPREHENSIBLE!* I HAVE MORE PRESSING WORRIES.
MY STUDENTS ARE MISSING, SHAW. I NEED THE *HELLFIRE CLUB'S* EQUIPMENT TO TRY AND LOCATE--
MAGNUS! LOOK! IN *DALLAS!*
THAT'S ILLYANA'S BROTHER, *COLOSSUS!* AND THE *X-MEN!* WHAT IS *GOING ON?*


WHILE IN THE SCHOOL'S INFIRMARY...
DOUG'S NOT THE FIRST ONE'A XAVIER'S STUDENTS TA DIE, YA KNOW.
YEAH. EVEN THE PROFESSOR COULDN'T STOP THUNDERBIRD FROM BEING KILLED...
EVEN YOUR BROTHER PETER WAS HURT, WASN'T HE, ILLYANA?
I GUESS DANGER... AND DYING'S, A PART OF BEING HEROES.
PETER'S BETTER NOW. I 'PORTED HIM TO DALLAS TO BE WITH THE X-MEN.
HE WAS WORRIED, I THINK...
HERE'S WHERE MY BROTHER JOINED THE X-MEN.
HE'S SO HANDSOME... ALL SHINING STEEL... LIKE A KNIGHT IN ARMOR, ISN'T HE?
THERE'S PROFESSOR XAVIER IN HIS WHEELCHAIR. HE SURE TRAINED A BUNCH A' US, DIDN'T HE...?
HE CREATED THE SCHOOL TO TRAIN GOOD MUTANTS-- X-MEN-- SO THEY COULD SAVE THE WORLD FROM THE EVIL MUTANTS.
IT WAS A LOVELY IDEA. I MISS PROFESSOR X.
I WISH MAGNETO WOULD COME HOME.
MAGNETO? BUT... ILLYANA, YOU ALWAYS WANT TO DISOBEY HIM. AND... AND...
AND RIGHT NOW HE'S AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB, CONSORTING WITH VILLAINS!
HE'S LOOKING FOR US, ISN'T HE?
THEN WE BETTER CALL HIM THERE AND LET HIM KNOW WE'RE BACK... AND LET HIM KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO DOUG.

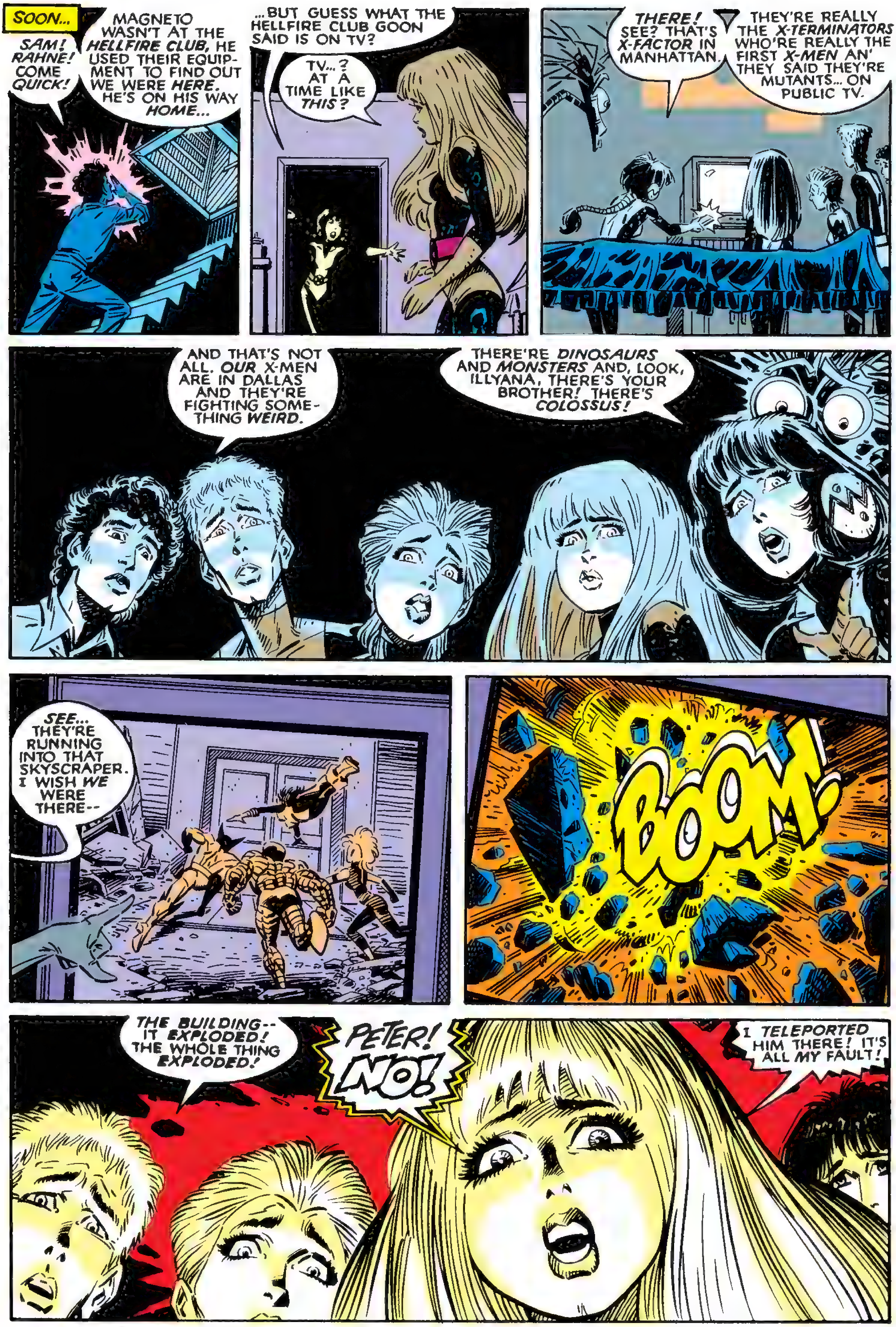

C'MON, RAHNE! MAYBE YOU SHOULD *LIE DOWN* FOR A WHILE.
LISTEN, BOBBY, *YOU* WERE THE LAST ONE TO SEE MAGNETO. MAYBE *YOU* SHOULD CALL HIM!
ILLYANA, YOU AN' 'LOCK MIND STAYIN' HERE... WITH DOUG?
ME?!? NO *WAY!*
I... *WE* DON'T MIND.
QUERY: WHY COVER SELFRIEND'S FACE, ILLYANA?
IT'S JUST TEMPORARY. WE'LL *BURY* HIM LATER... WHEN MAGNETO GETS BACK.
BURY--? SO MUCH THAT SELF DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.
HOW CAN SELFRIENDILLYANA *TRUST* MAGNETO... YET SIMULTANEOUSLY DISOBEY?
WHEN I WAS PRACTICALLY A BABY, I WAS *LOST* IN LIMBO, I *GREW UP* THERE, EARNED MY *POWER* THERE AT A... TERRIBLE PRICE.
MY DEMONS WANT ME TO *STAY* THERE... AND PART OF ME WANTS IT, TOO. LIMBO'S... LIKE A BLACK HOLE THAT TUGS AT ME...
BUT *MAGNETO* HELPED ME THERE.* WITH HIM STANDING GUARD, I CAN RELAX A LITTLE.
*IN NM #52.
AND TRY... *PRETEND* TO BE A NORMAL KID.

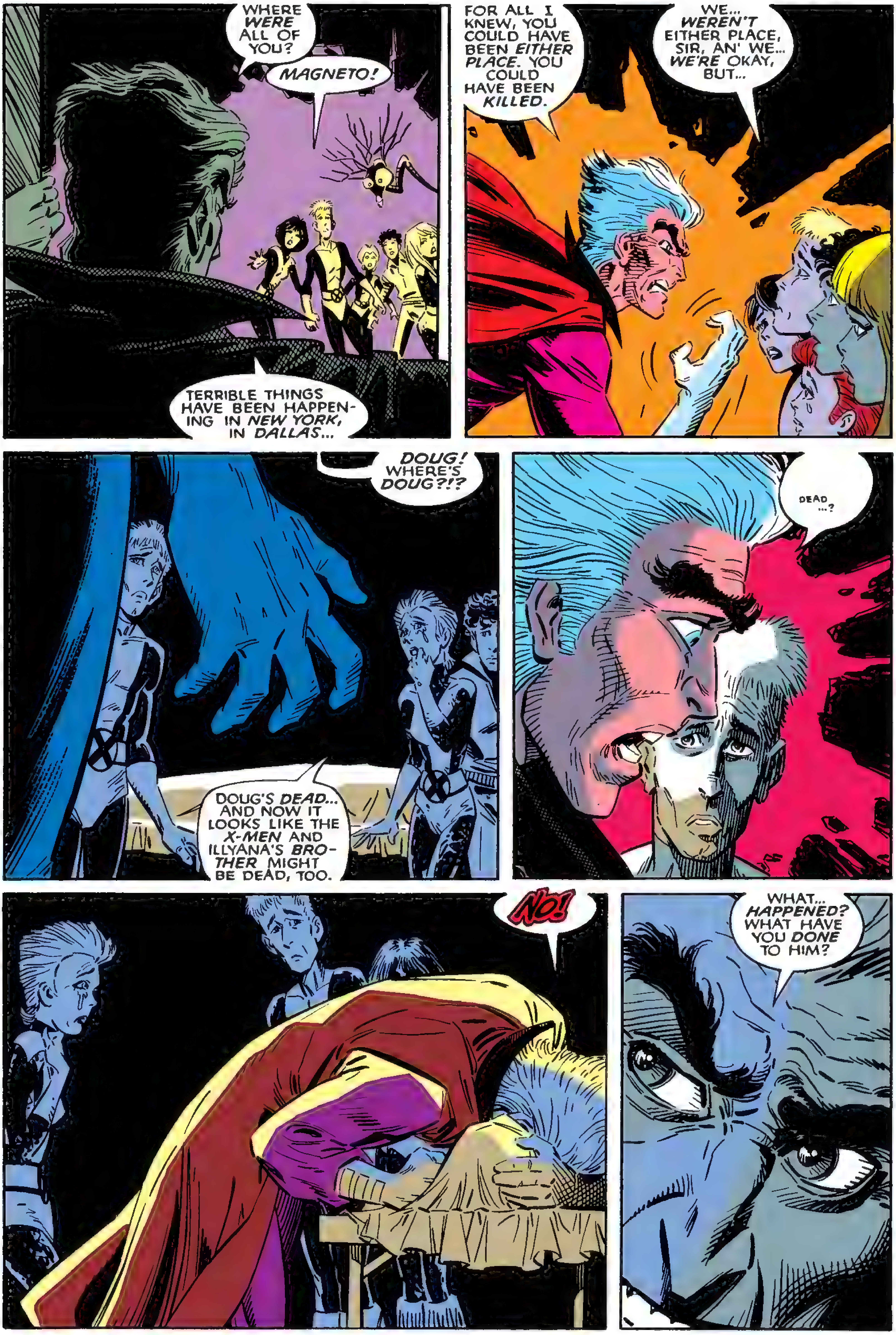

DOUG WAS GOOD AND KIND. HE WAS MY *FRIEND*. HE DIED SAVING ME... AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.
LOOK, RAHNE, YOU WERE FIGHTIN' FOR YOUR *LIFE*. WE *ALL* WERE. *NONE* A' US NOTICED. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF.
Oh, STOP IT, SAM! I'M SO WICKED. I DON'T *DESERVE* TO HAVE PEOPLE LOVE ME... OR BE KIND TO ME.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD'VE *DIED!*
JUST... LEAVE ME *ALONE!*
RAHNE! *NO! COME BACK!*
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
YIIEEELP!
RAHNE!

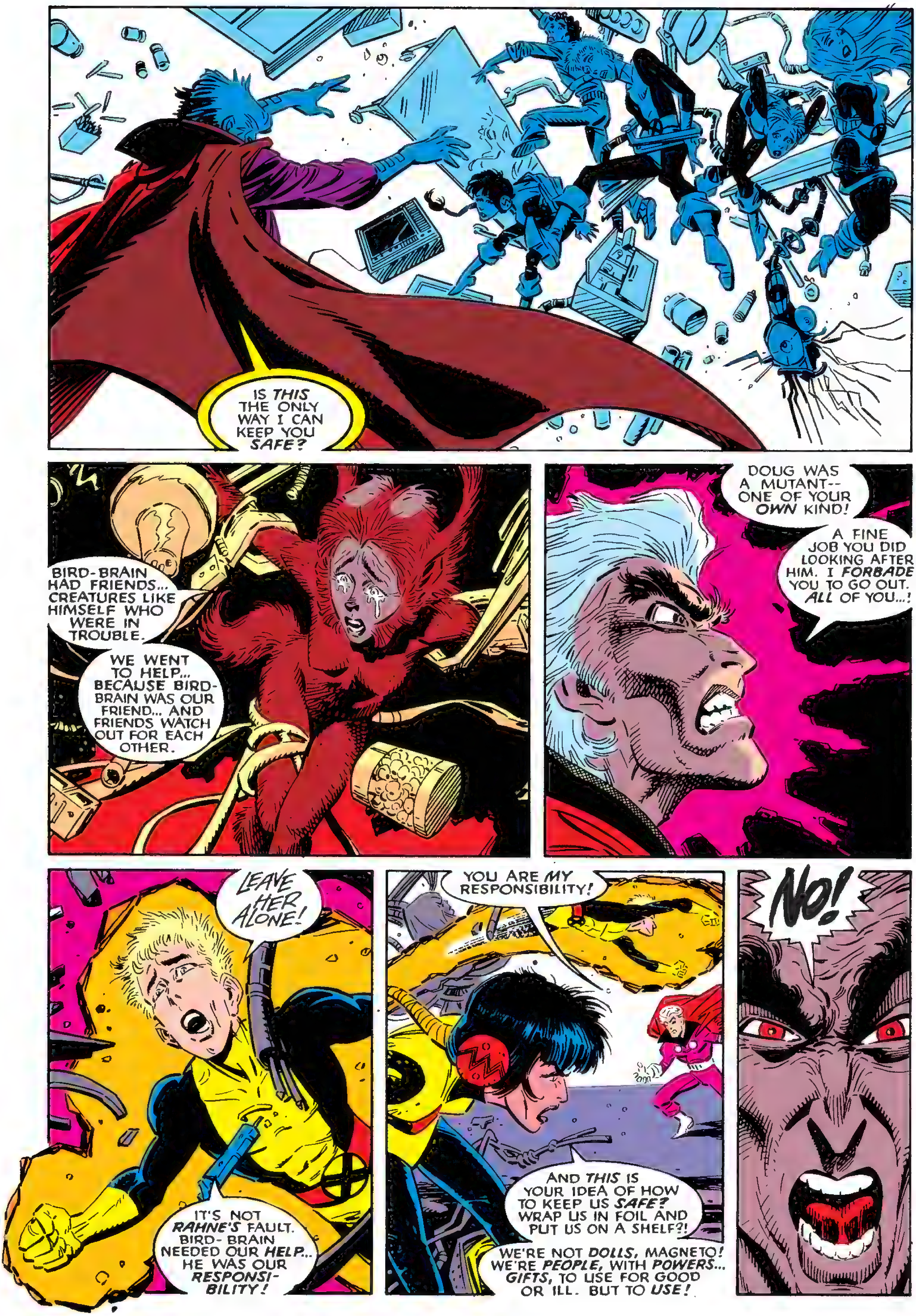

RAHNE, RAHNE, AH GOTCHA!
WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU DOING?
I WANTED TO BE ALONE BUT THE ROOF SLATE *CRUMBLED* AND MY WOLF FORM DOESN'T HAVE HANDS AND I COULDN'T GRAB OR SWITCH BACK FAST ENOUGH AND--
--AND I NEARLY BLEW IT *THIS* TIME, TOO.
BLEW *WHAT?*
AH'M THE *OLDEST.* AH SHOULDA BEEN WATCHIN' DOUG, SAME AS AH USED TA WATCH MY LITTLE BROTHERS AN' SISTERS.
AH *KNEW* DOUG DIDN'T HAVE *PHYSICAL* POWERS... THAT HE WAS A'MOST LIKE A *NORMAL KID.*
I SHOULD'A WATCHED HIM.
Oh, SAM, 'TIS VERY *SELFISH* I'VE BEEN. DON'T BLAME YUIRSELF.
HAVING POWERS MAKES US FEEL *SPECIAL*... SORT OF *INVULNERABLE*... LIKE ME ON THE ROOF.
I GUESS WE *ALL* FORGET WE'RE *NOT*...
BUT I HAVE AN IDEA, SAM. WE CAN'T MAKE OURSELVES *INVULNERABLE*, BUT MAYBE IF YOU LOOK AFTER ME...
...LIKE YOUR LITTLE SISTERS... AND... AND I LOOK AFTER YOU... LIKE YOU WERE MY *BROTHER*...
I... I NEVER HAD A BROTHER LIKE *ILLYANA* DOES. I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS SO LUCKY.
I NEVER HAD *ANY* FAMILY.
OKAY, FUZZY-HEAD, LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL, OKAY? I HEREBY ADOPT YOU TO BE MY LITTLE SISTER.
Oh... SAM...

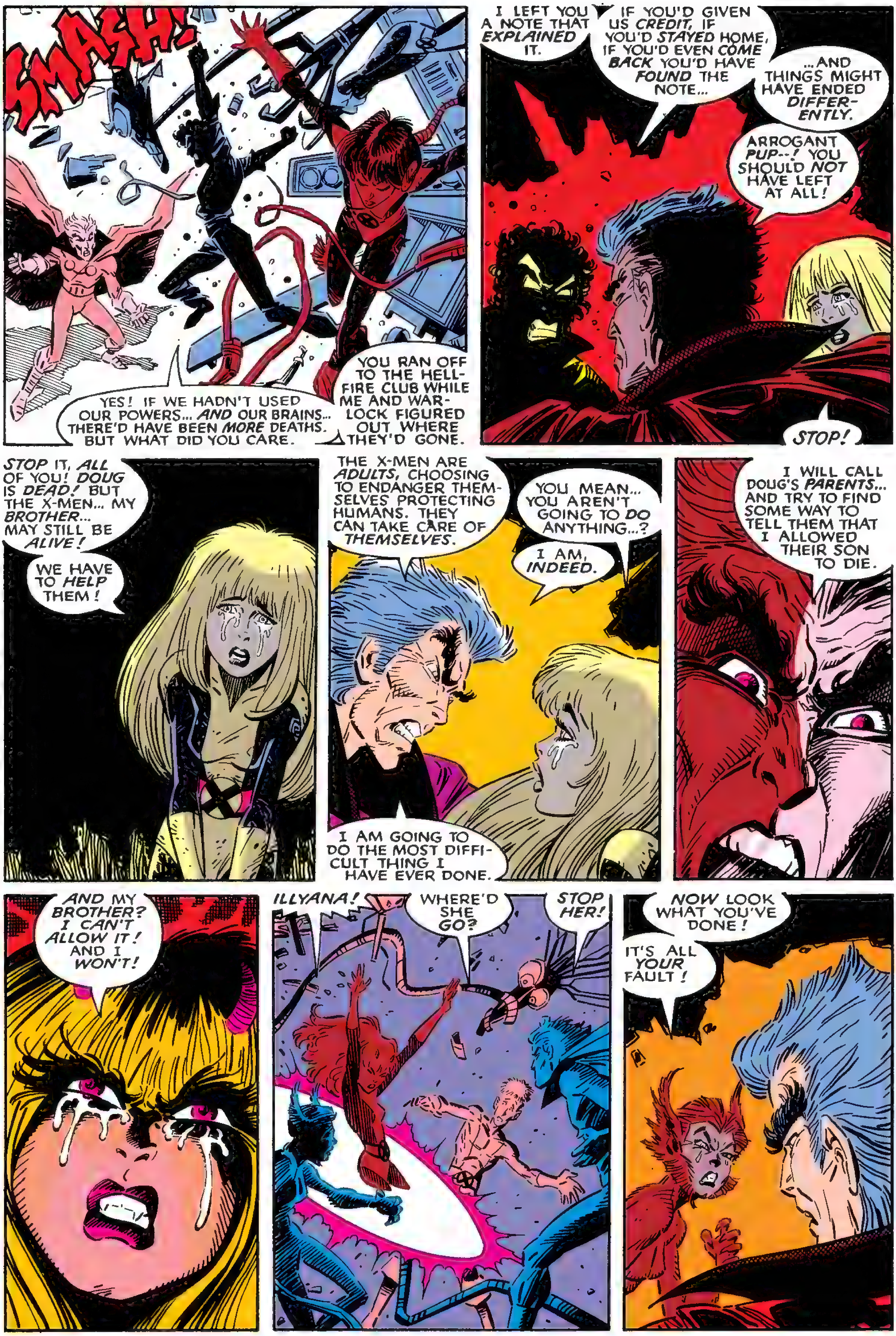

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE *BELIEVED* IT, BOBBY. IT WAS ACTUALLY *DOUG'S* IDEA...
...HE WAS JEALOUS AT FIRST, SEE, AND TRYING TO GET BIRD-BRAIN IN TROUBLE.
DOUG SAID BIRD-BRAIN WOULDN'T ACT HUMAN BUT RAHNE SAID HE WOULD...
...SO WE DRESSED BIRD-BRAIN UP AND TOOK HIM TO THE *MALT SHOPPE*...
...AND HE ENDED UP DUMPING A *CHOCOLATE SHAKE* ON DOUG'S *HEAD!*
ILLYANA COULDN'T STOP *LAUGHING,* I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LAUGH LIKE THAT...!
I'LL DIAL... BUT *YOU'VE* GOTTA TALK!
THE SHOPPE OWNER CALLED MAGNETO COMPLAINING ABOUT XAVIER'S STUDENTS' BEHAVIOR.
YOU SHOULD HAVE *SEEN* MAGNETO'S *FACE* WHEN WE GOT HOME... AND DOUG STILL HAD *SHAKE* IN HIS HAIR!
I *SAW* MAGNETO'S FACE WHEN 'LOCK AND I GOT BACK, *IT* WASN'T FUNNY.
HE WAS WORRIED *SICK* SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
IT'S *MY* FAULT DOUG'S DEAD! I RAN AWAY... TOOK WARLOCK WITH ME.
DOUG AND 'LOCK WERE ALWAYS A *TEAM.* IF LOCK'D *STAYED* HERE... IF THEY'D STAYED A *TEAM,* HE WOULD'VE *PROTECTED* DOUG...
...AND DOUG WOULD STILL BE *ALIVE.*
MAGNETO DOESN'T LIKE ME AND *XAVIER* THOUGHT I'D TURN TO EVIL AND MY *FATHER* THINKS I'M A WIMP.
BUT I AM TRULY A--

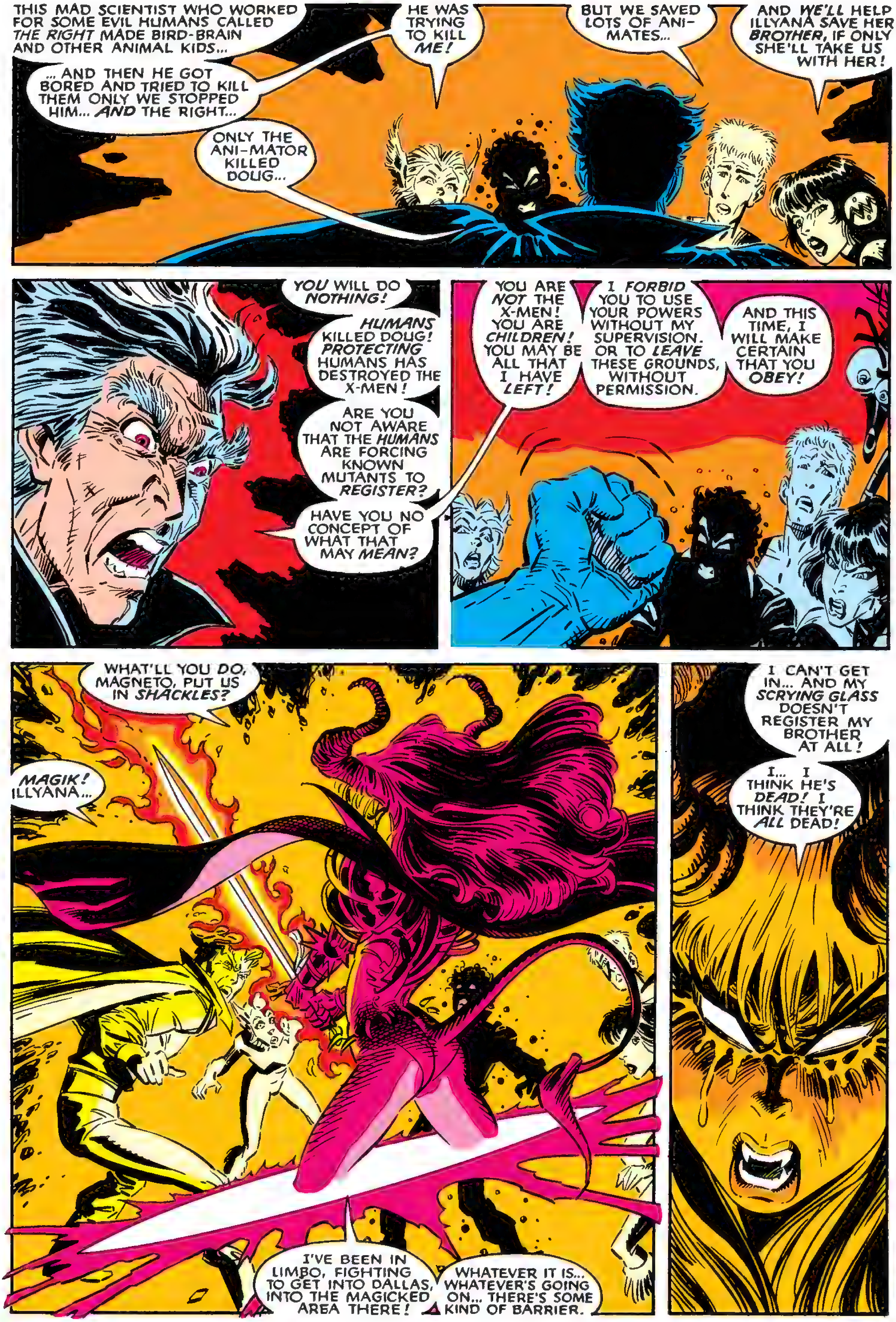
WHAT--? A *MONSTER*--?
WELL, LISTEN, JERK! I *KNEW* WE WERE GROUNDED... I KNEW *WHY*...
...BUT I AGREED TO FOLLOW BIRD-BRAIN AND HIS PEOPLE, ANYWAY.
I COULD'VE STOPPED THEM... I'M SUPPOSEDLY THE *CO-BOSS* OF THIS TEAM.
I COULD'VE INSISTED WE WAKE UP MAGNETO 'FORE WE LEFT. BUT I KNEW THEY'D GO ANYWAY...
... AND THINK I WAS A WIMP... AND I WANTED TO *STAY* BOSS...
I WAS SO ALONE BEFORE I CAME HERE... MY MIRAGE POWER MADE ME AN OUTCAST...
...'TIL XAVIER TAUGHT ME, I COULDN'T *USE* IT... *CONTROL* IT FOR GOOD OR ILL.
SO... I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT AND WENT ALONG WITH THEM. AND DOUG PAID FOR IT.
LOOK, DANI, *EVERYBODY* WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED... LOVED... WHATEVER. I THOUGHT I WASN'T. THAT'S WHY I RAN AWAY.
SO WE'RE *BOTH* MONSTERS, SOMETIMES, BIG DEAL. *THIS* TIME WE'LL *SHARE* THE HONOR...!
AND MAYBE NEXT TIME WE CAN FIND SOME BETTER WAY TO USE OUR POWERS THAN AGAINST EACH OTHER.
YEAH. *THIS* DISPLAY OF *MACHO* SURE DIDN'T HELP. WE STILL GOTTA PHONE MAGNETO...
YEAH... I KNOW. WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS THE PHONE IN THE KITCHEN.
SO WHAT ABOUT IT, BOSS-LADY? WANNA DO IT TOGETHER?


SOON...
SAM! RAHNE! COME QUICK!
MAGNETO WASN'T AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB. HE USED THEIR EQUIPMENT TO FIND OUT WE WERE HERE. HE'S ON HIS WAY HOME...
...BUT GUESS WHAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB GOON SAID IS ON TV?
TV...? AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
THERE! SEE? THAT'S X-FACTOR IN MANHATTAN.
THEY'RE REALLY THE X-TERMINATORS WHO'RE REALLY THE FIRST X-MEN AN' THEY SAID THEY'RE MUTANTS... ON PUBLIC TV.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL. OUR X-MEN ARE IN DALLAS AND THEY'RE FIGHTING SOMETHING WEIRD.
THERE'RE DINOSAURS AND MONSTERS AND, LOOK, ILLYANA, THERE'S YOUR BROTHER! THERE'S COLOSSUS!
SEE... THEY'RE RUNNING INTO THAT SKYSCRAPER. I WISH WE WERE THERE--
BOOM!
THE BUILDING-- IT EXPLODED! THE WHOLE THING EXPLODED!
PETER! NO!
I TELEPORTED HIM THERE! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

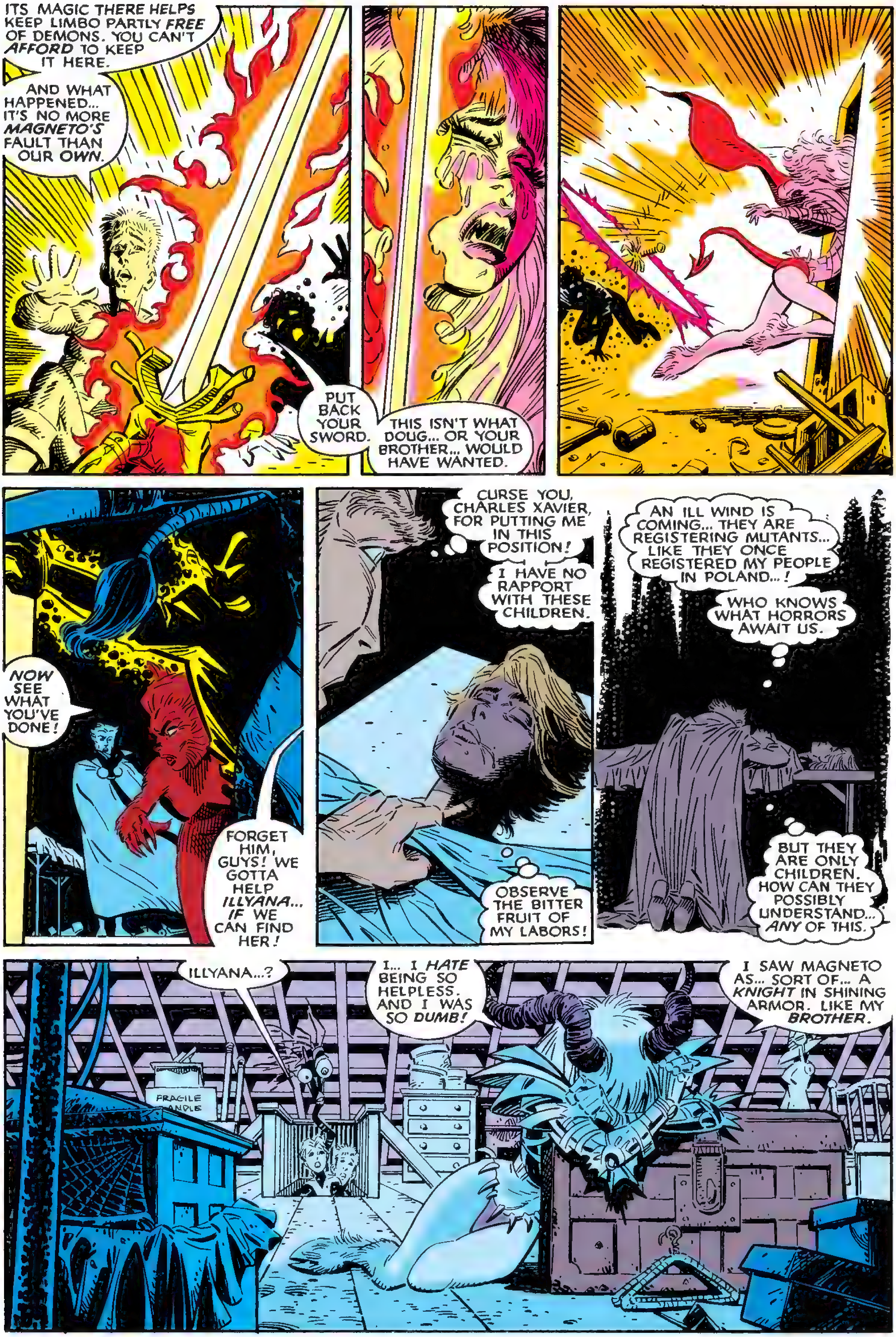

WHERE WERE ALL OF YOU?
MAGNETO!
TERRIBLE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN NEW YORK, IN DALLAS...
FOR ALL I KNEW, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN EITHER PLACE. YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
WE... WEREN'T EITHER PLACE, SIR, AN' WE... WE'RE OKAY, BUT...
DOUG! WHERE'S DOUG?!?
DOUG'S DEAD... AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE THE X-MEN AND ILLYANA'S BROTHER MIGHT BE DEAD, TOO.
DEAD ...?
NO!
WHAT... HAPPENED? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

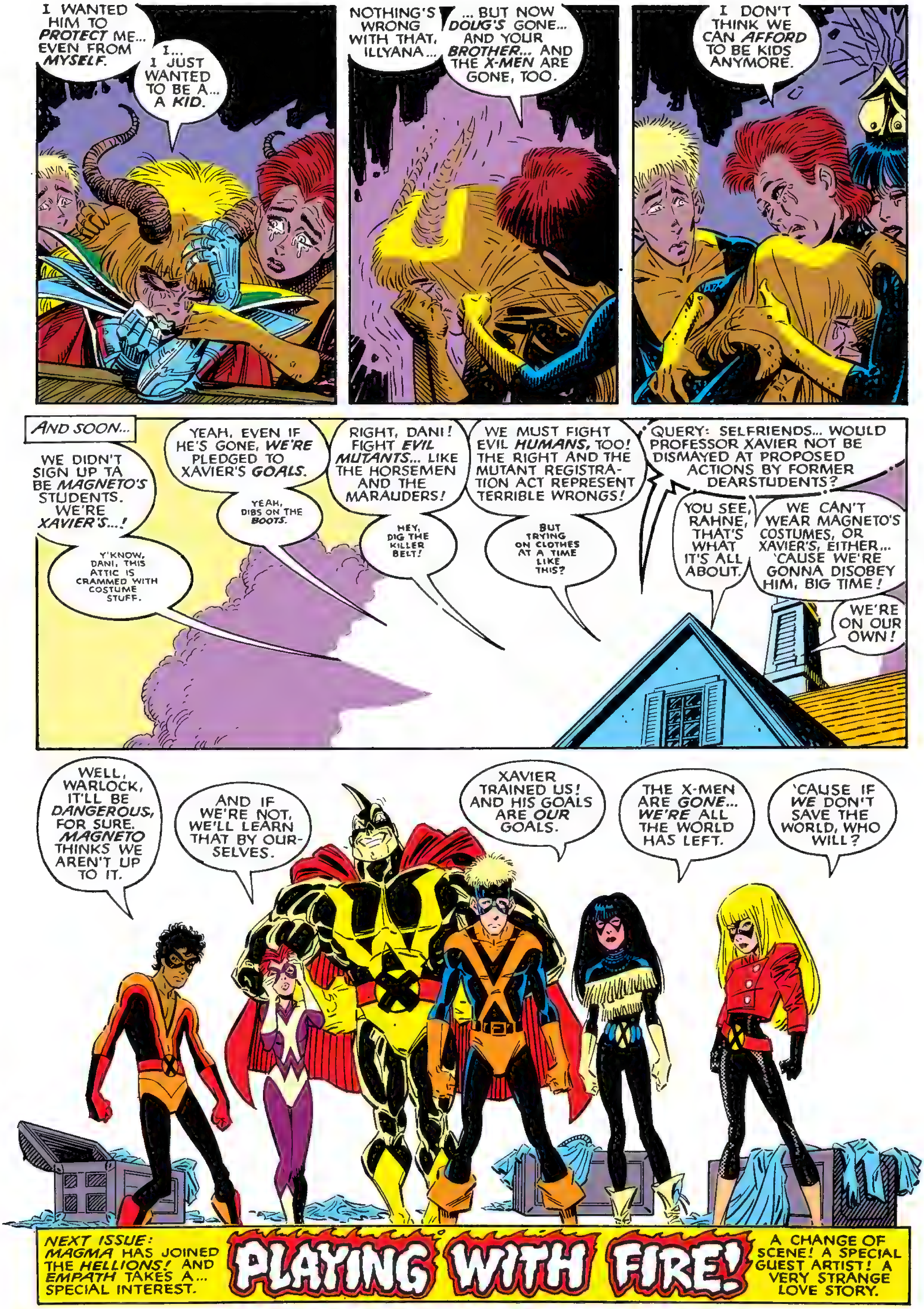

IS THIS THE ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP YOU SAFE?
BIRD-BRAIN HAD FRIENDS... CREATURES LIKE HIMSELF WHO WERE IN TROUBLE.
WE WENT TO HELP... BECAUSE BIRD-BRAIN WAS OUR FRIEND... AND FRIENDS WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
DOUG WAS A MUTANT-- ONE OF YOUR OWN KIND!
A FINE JOB YOU DID LOOKING AFTER HIM. I FORBADE YOU TO GO OUT. ALL OF YOU...!
LEAVE HER ALONE!
IT'S NOT RAHNE'S FAULT. BIRD-BRAIN NEEDED OUR HELP... HE WAS OUR RESPONSIBILITY!
YOU ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY!
AND THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF HOW TO KEEP US SAFE? WRAP US IN FOIL AND PUT US ON A SHELF?!
WE'RE NOT DOLLS, MAGNETO! WE'RE PEOPLE, WITH POWERS... GIFTS, TO USE FOR GOOD OR ILL. BUT TO USE!
NO!


SMASH!
YES! IF WE HADN'T USED OUR POWERS... *AND* OUR BRAINS... THERE'D HAVE BEEN *MORE* DEATHS. BUT WHAT DID YOU CARE.
YOU RAN OFF TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB WHILE ME AND WARLOCK FIGURED OUT WHERE THEY'D GONE.
I LEFT YOU A NOTE THAT *EXPLAINED* IT.
IF YOU'D GIVEN US *CREDIT*, IF YOU'D *STAYED* HOME, IF YOU'D EVEN *COME BACK* YOU'D HAVE *FOUND* THE NOTE...
...AND THINGS MIGHT HAVE ENDED *DIFFERENTLY*.
ARROGANT *PUP--!* YOU SHOULD *NOT* HAVE LEFT AT ALL!
STOP!
STOP IT, *ALL* OF YOU! *DOUG* IS *DEAD!* BUT THE X-MEN... MY *BROTHER*... MAY STILL BE *ALIVE!*
WE HAVE TO *HELP* THEM!
THE X-MEN ARE *ADULTS*, CHOOSING TO ENDANGER THEMSELVES PROTECTING HUMANS. THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF *THEMSELVES*.
YOU MEAN... YOU AREN'T GOING TO *DO* ANYTHING...?
I AM, *INDEED*.
I AM GOING TO DO THE MOST DIFFICULT THING I HAVE EVER DONE.
I WILL CALL DOUG'S *PARENTS*... AND TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO TELL THEM THAT I ALLOWED THEIR SON TO DIE.
AND MY *BROTHER? I CAN'T ALLOW IT!* AND I *WON'T!*
ILLYANA!
WHERE'D SHE *GO?*
STOP HER!
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
IT'S ALL *YOUR* FAULT!


THIS MAD SCIENTIST WHO WORKED FOR SOME EVIL HUMANS CALLED *THE RIGHT* MADE BIRD-BRAIN AND OTHER ANIMAL KIDS...
... AND THEN HE GOT BORED AND TRIED TO KILL THEM ONLY WE STOPPED HIM... *AND* THE RIGHT...
ONLY THE ANI-MATOR KILLED DOUG...
HE WAS TRYING TO KILL *ME!*
BUT WE SAVED LOTS OF ANIMATES...
AND *WE'LL* HELP ILLYANA SAVE HER *BROTHER*, IF ONLY SHE'LL TAKE US WITH HER!
YOU WILL DO *NOTHING!*
HUMANS KILLED DOUG! *PROTECTING* HUMANS HAS DESTROYED THE X-MEN!
ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT THE *HUMANS* ARE FORCING KNOWN MUTANTS TO *REGISTER?*
HAVE YOU NO CONCEPT OF WHAT THAT MAY *MEAN?*
YOU ARE *NOT* THE X-MEN! YOU ARE *CHILDREN!* YOU MAY BE ALL THAT I HAVE *LEFT!*
I *FORBID* YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS WITHOUT MY SUPERVISION. OR TO *LEAVE* THESE GROUNDS, WITHOUT PERMISSION.
AND THIS TIME, I WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU *OBEY!*
WHAT'LL YOU *DO*, MAGNETO, PUT US IN *SHACKLES?*
MAGIK! ILLYANA...
I'VE BEEN IN LIMBO, FIGHTING TO GET INTO DALLAS, INTO THE MAGICKED AREA THERE!
WHATEVER IT IS... WHATEVER'S GOING ON... THERE'S SOME KIND OF BARRIER.
I CAN'T GET IN... AND MY *SCRYING GLASS* DOESN'T REGISTER MY BROTHER AT ALL!
I... I THINK HE'S *DEAD!* I THINK THEY'RE *ALL* DEAD!

AND YOU DON'T *CARE!*
I WAS *WRONG* ABOUT YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE DEAD!
ILLYANA, *NO!* LISTEN.
MAGNETO *MEANS* WELL...
PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD! SEND IT BACK TO LIMBO... WHERE IT BELONGS!
NO!


ITS MAGIC THERE HELPS KEEP LIMBO PARTLY *FREE* OF DEMONS. YOU CAN'T *AFFORD* TO KEEP IT HERE.
AND WHAT HAPPENED... IT'S NO MORE *MAGNETO'S* FAULT THAN OUR *OWN*.
PUT BACK YOUR SWORD.
THIS ISN'T WHAT DOUG... OR YOUR BROTHER... WOULD HAVE WANTED.
NOW SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
FORGET HIM, GUYS! WE GOTTA HELP *ILLYANA*... *IF* WE CAN FIND HER!
CURSE YOU, CHARLES XAVIER, FOR PUTTING ME IN THIS POSITION!
I HAVE NO RAPPORT WITH THESE CHILDREN.
OBSERVE THE BITTER FRUIT OF MY LABORS!
AN ILL WIND IS COMING... THEY ARE REGISTERING MUTANTS... LIKE THEY ONCE REGISTERED MY PEOPLE IN POLAND...!
WHO KNOWS WHAT HORRORS AWAIT US.
BUT THEY ARE ONLY CHILDREN. HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND... *ANY* OF THIS.
ILLYANA...?
I... I *HATE* BEING SO HELPLESS. AND I WAS SO *DUMB*!
I SAW MAGNETO AS... SORT OF... A *KNIGHT* IN SHINING ARMOR. LIKE MY *BROTHER*.
FRAGILE HANDLE


I WANTED HIM TO *PROTECT* ME... EVEN FROM *MYSELF*.
I... I JUST WANTED TO BE A... A *KID*.
NOTHING'S WRONG WITH THAT, ILLYANA...
... BUT NOW *DOUG'S* GONE... AND YOUR *BROTHER*... AND THE *X-MEN* ARE GONE, TOO.
I DON'T THINK WE CAN *AFFORD* TO BE KIDS ANYMORE.
AND SOON...
WE DIDN'T SIGN UP TA BE *MAGNETO'S* STUDENTS. WE'RE *XAVIER'S*...!
Y'KNOW, DANI, THIS ATTIC IS CRAMMED WITH COSTUME STUFF.
YEAH, EVEN IF HE'S GONE, *WE'RE* PLEDGED TO XAVIER'S *GOALS*.
YEAH, DIBS ON THE *BOOTS*.
RIGHT, DANI! FIGHT *EVIL MUTANTS*... LIKE THE HORSEMEN AND THE MARAUDERS!
HEY, DIG THE KILLER BELT!
WE MUST FIGHT EVIL *HUMANS*, TOO! THE RIGHT AND THE MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT REPRESENT TERRIBLE WRONGS!
BUT TRYING ON CLOTHES AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
QUERY: SELFRIENDS... WOULD PROFESSOR XAVIER NOT BE DISMAYED AT PROPOSED ACTIONS BY FORMER DEARSTUDENTS?
YOU SEE, RAHNE, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
WE CAN'T WEAR MAGNETO'S COSTUMES, OR XAVIER'S, EITHER... 'CAUSE WE'RE GONNA DISOBEY HIM, BIG TIME!
WE'RE ON OUR OWN!
WELL, WARLOCK, IT'LL BE *DANGEROUS*, FOR SURE. *MAGNETO* THINKS WE AREN'T UP TO IT.
AND IF WE'RE NOT, WE'LL LEARN THAT BY OURSELVES.
XAVIER TRAINED US! AND HIS GOALS ARE *OUR* GOALS.
THE X-MEN ARE *GONE*... *WE'RE* ALL THE WORLD HAS LEFT.
'CAUSE IF *WE* DON'T SAVE THE WORLD, WHO WILL?
NEXT ISSUE: MAGMA HAS JOINED THE *HELLIONS!* AND *EMPATH* TAKES A... SPECIAL INTEREST.
PLAYING WITH FIRE!
A CHANGE OF SCENE! A SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST! A VERY STRANGE LOVE STORY.

MARVEL
THE NEW
MUTANTS
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95¢ CAN
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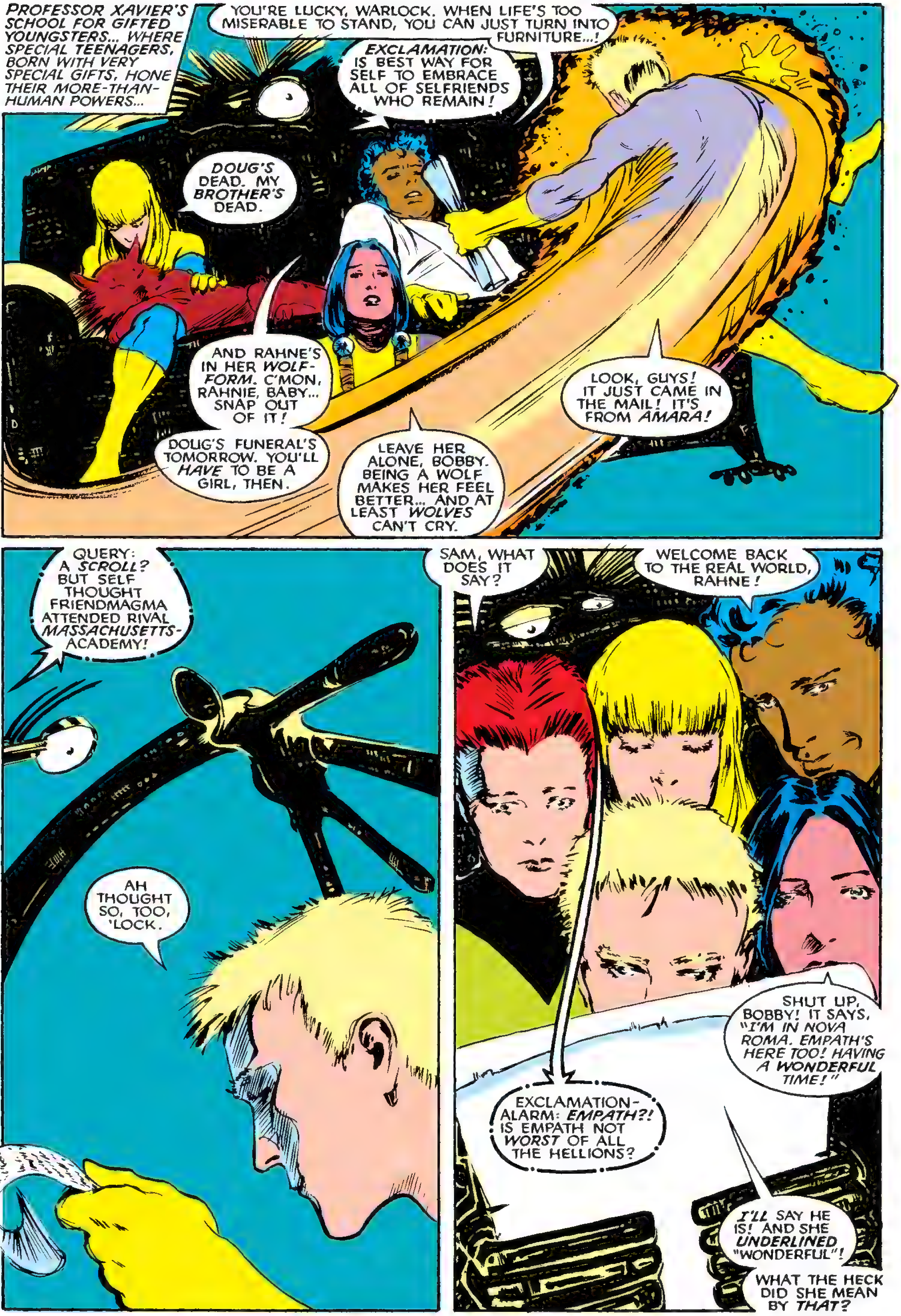
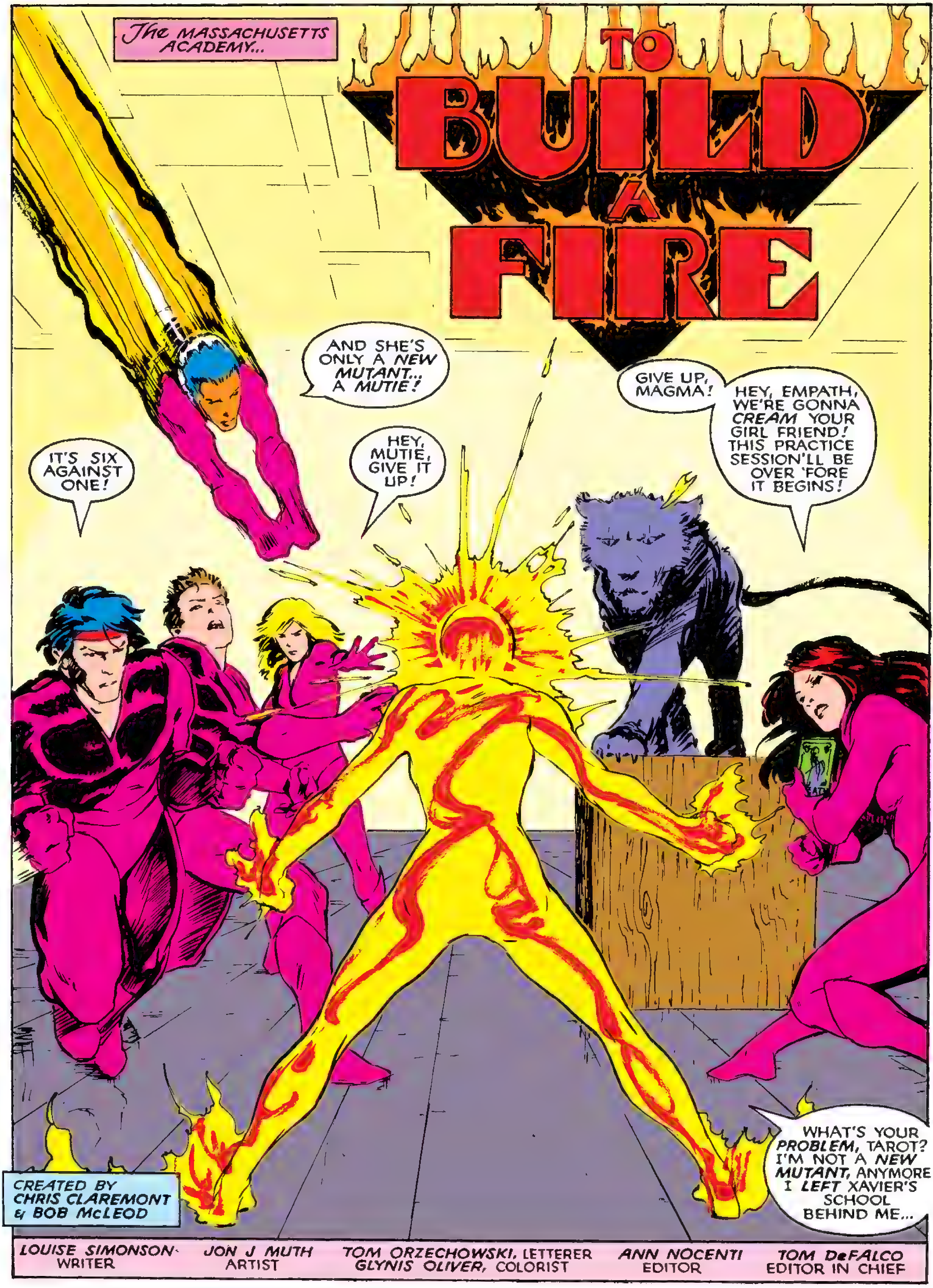
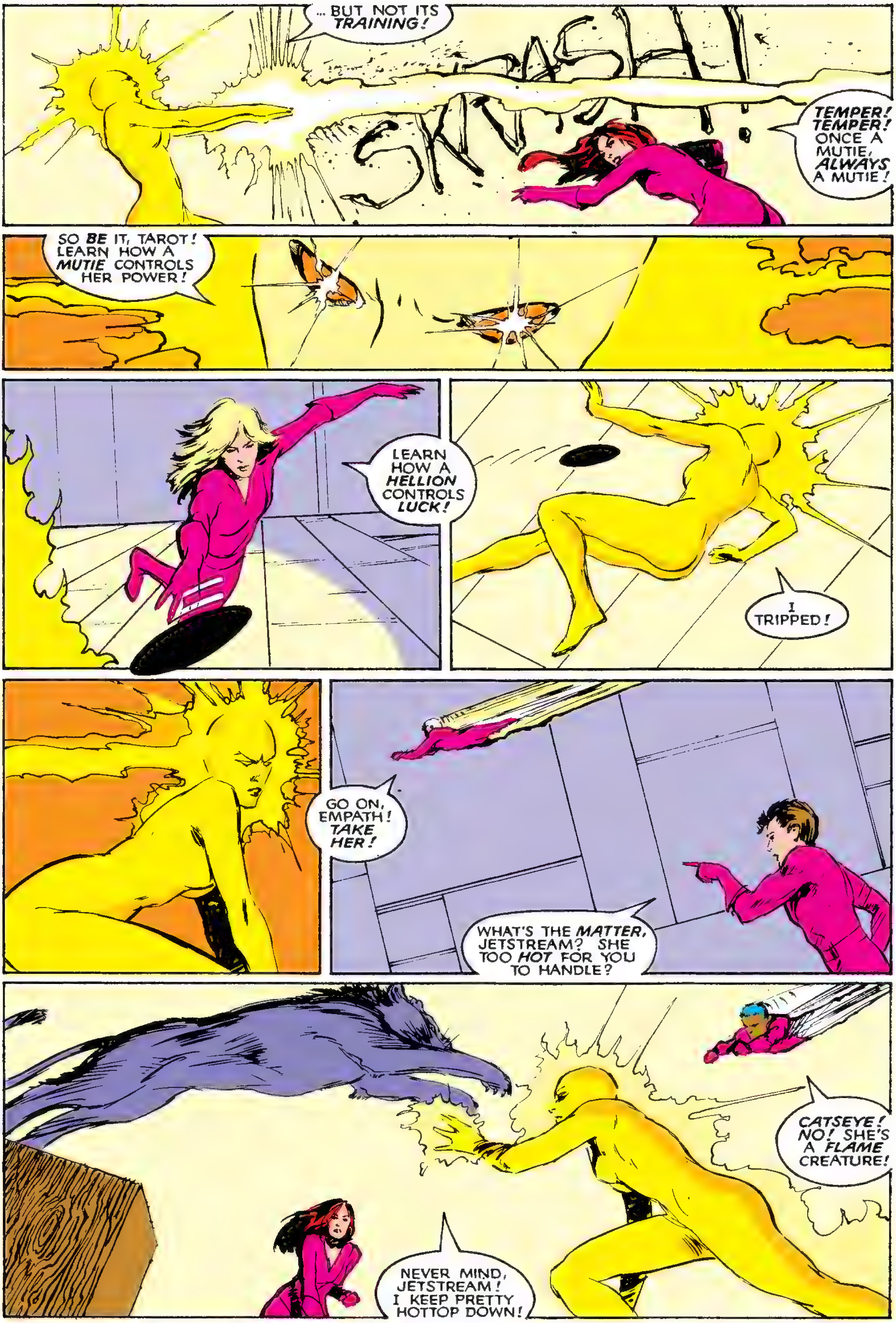
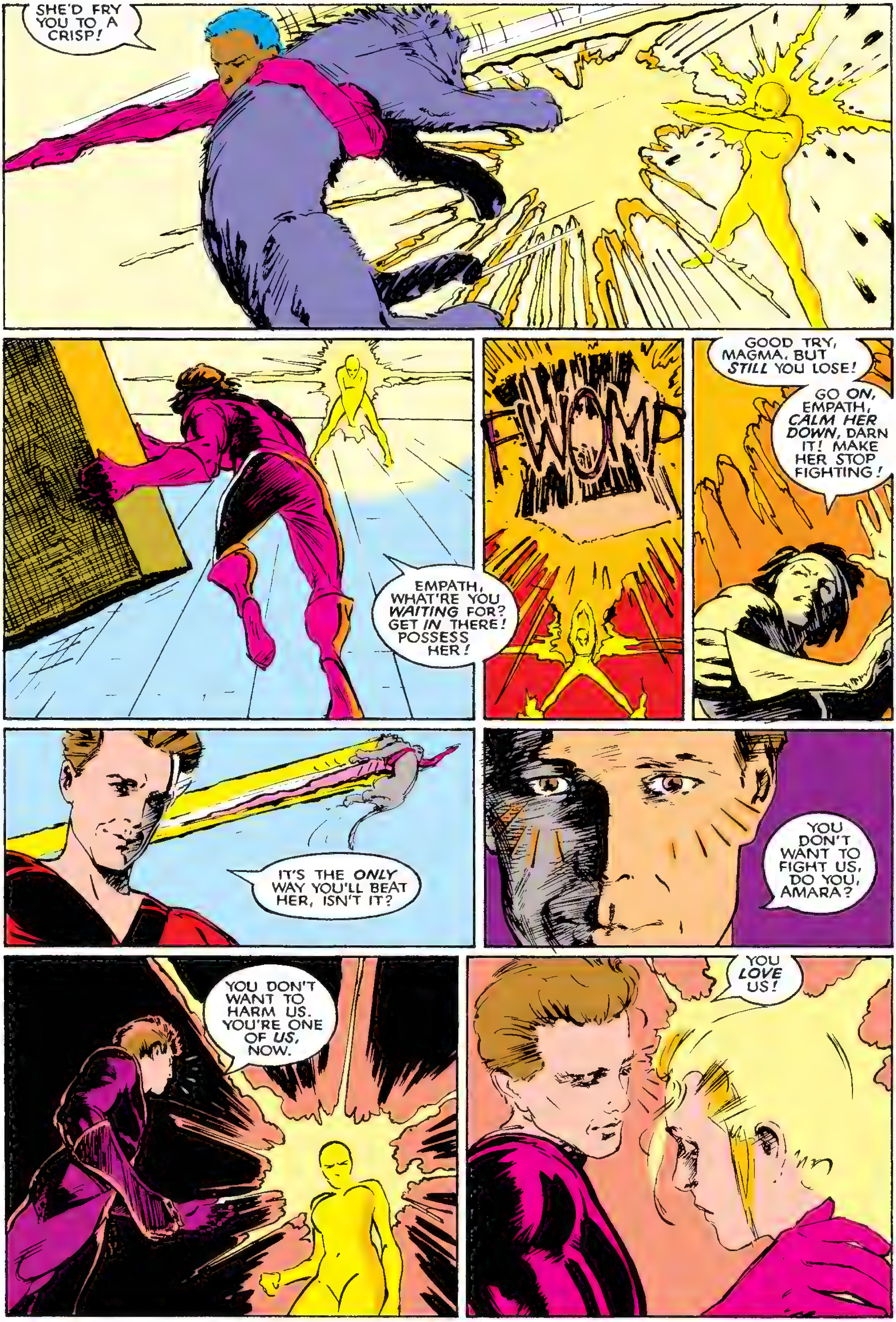
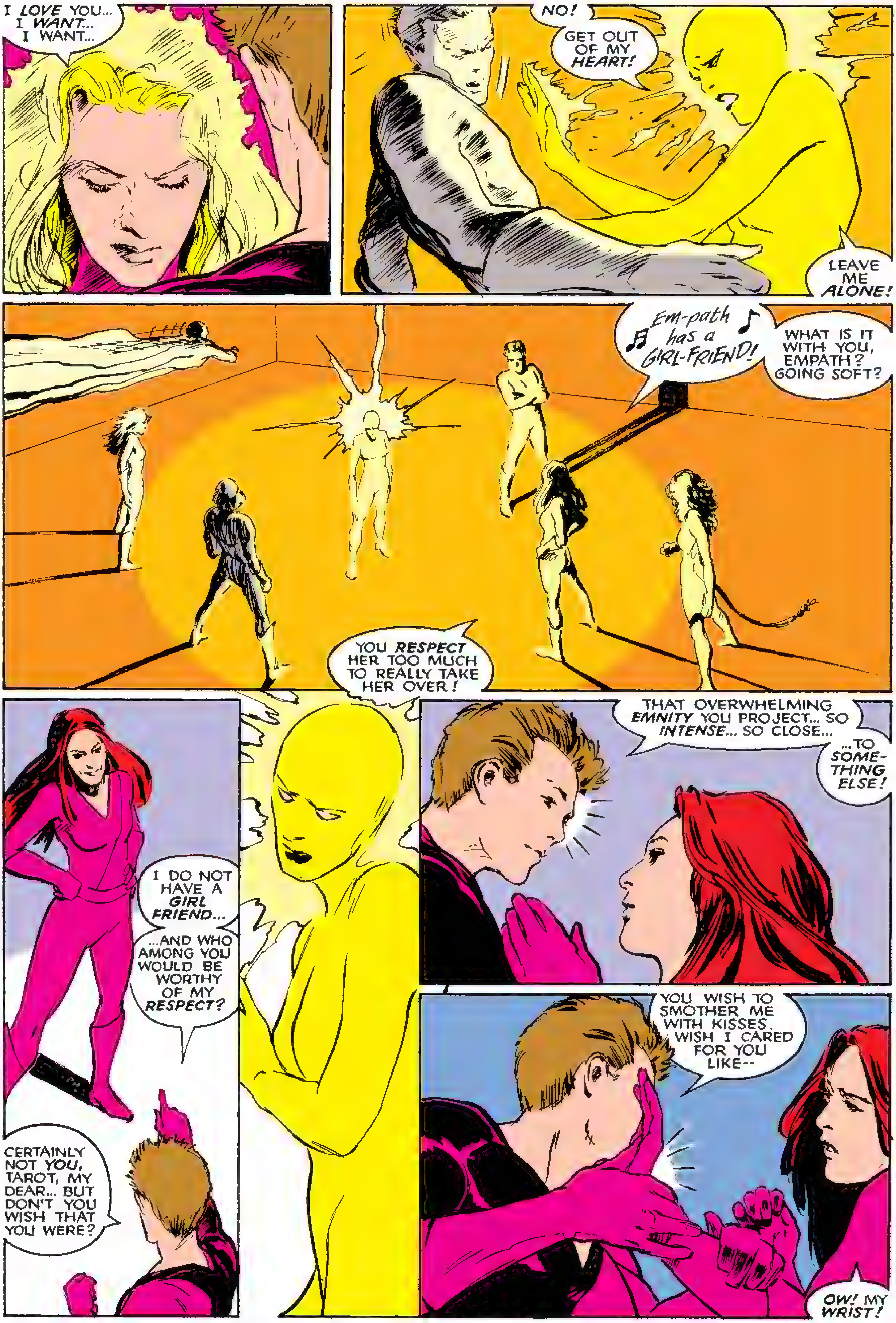
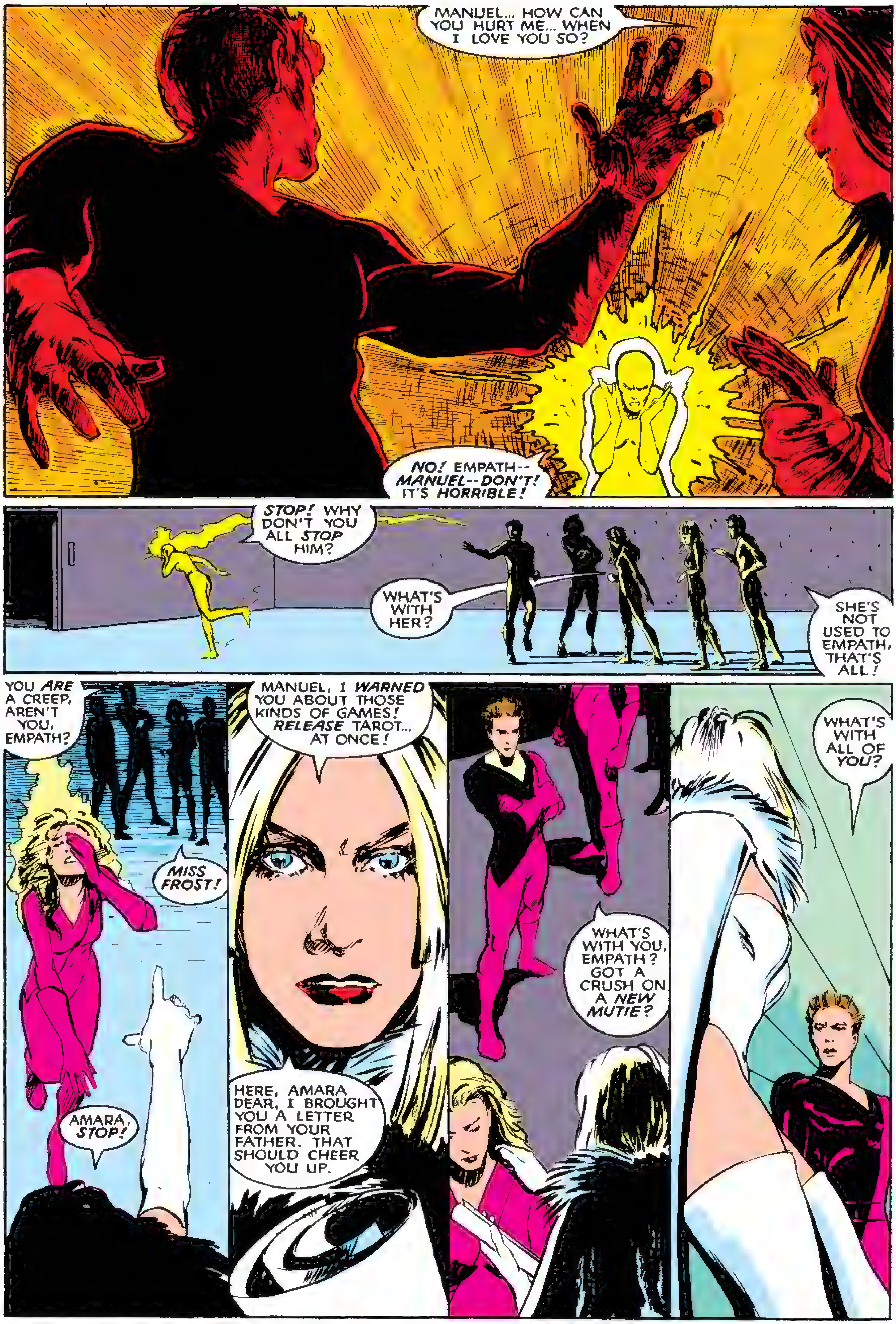

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS... WHERE SPECIAL TEENAGERS, BORN WITH VERY SPECIAL GIFTS, HONE THEIR MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWERS...
YOU'RE LUCKY, WARLOCK. WHEN LIFE'S TOO MISERABLE TO STAND, YOU CAN JUST TURN INTO FURNITURE...!
EXCLAMATION: IS BEST WAY FOR SELF TO EMBRACE ALL OF SELFRIENDS WHO REMAIN!
DOUG'S DEAD. MY BROTHER'S DEAD.
AND RAHNE'S IN HER WOLF-FORM. C'MON, RAHNIE, BABY... SNAP OUT OF IT!
DOUG'S FUNERAL'S TOMORROW. YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A GIRL, THEN.
LEAVE HER ALONE, BOBBY. BEING A WOLF MAKES HER FEEL BETTER... AND AT LEAST WOLVES CAN'T CRY.
LOOK, GUYS! IT JUST CAME IN THE MAIL! IT'S FROM AMARA!
QUERY: A SCROLL? BUT SELF THOUGHT FRIENDMAGMA ATTENDED RIVAL MASSACHUSETTS-ACADEMY!
AH THOUGHT SO, TOO, 'LOCK.
SAM, WHAT DOES IT SAY?
WELCOME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD, RAHNE!
SHUT UP, BOBBY! IT SAYS, "I'M IN NOVA ROMA. EMPATH'S HERE TOO! HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!"
EXCLAMATION-ALARM: EMPATH?! IS EMPATH NOT WORST OF ALL THE HELLIONS?
I'LL SAY HE IS! AND SHE UNDERLINED "WONDERFUL"!
WHAT THE HECK DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?

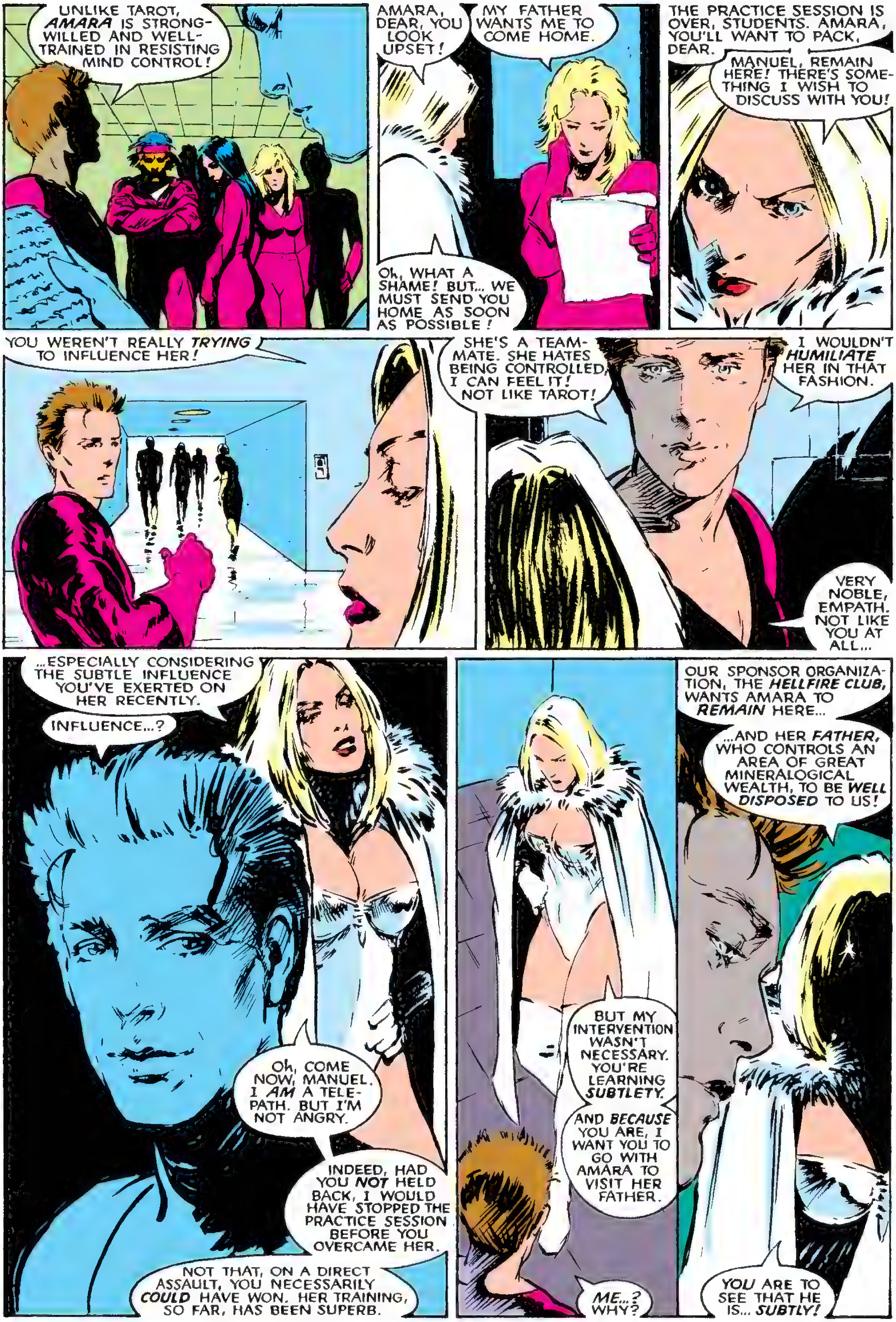

The MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
TO BUILD A FIRE
IT'S SIX AGAINST ONE!
AND SHE'S ONLY A *NEW MUTANT*... A *MUTIE!*
HEY, MUTIE, GIVE IT UP!
GIVE UP, MAGMA!
HEY, EMPATH, WE'RE GONNA *CREAM* YOUR GIRL FRIEND! THIS PRACTICE SESSION'LL BE OVER 'FORE IT BEGINS!
WHAT'S YOUR *PROBLEM,* TAROT? I'M NOT A *NEW MUTANT,* ANYMORE! I *LEFT* XAVIER'S SCHOOL BEHIND ME...
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER
JON J MUTH ARTIST
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
ANN NOCENTI EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

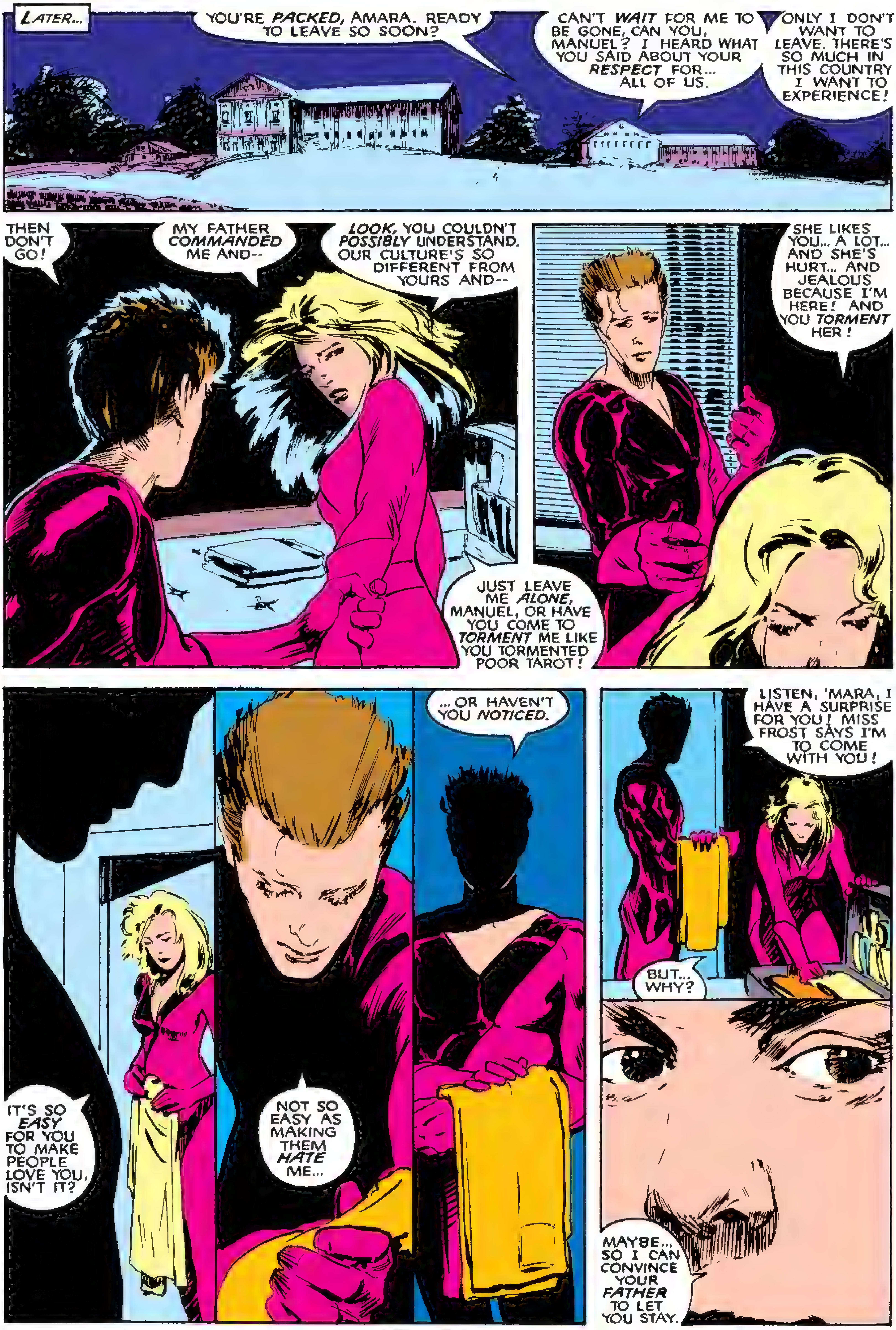

... BUT NOT ITS *TRAINING!*
SKASH!
TEMPER! TEMPER! ONCE A MUTIE, *ALWAYS* A MUTIE!
SO *BE* IT, TAROT! LEARN HOW A *MUTIE* CONTROLS HER POWER!
LEARN HOW A *HELLION* CONTROLS *LUCK!*
I TRIPPED!
GO ON, EMPATH! *TAKE HER!*
WHAT'S THE *MATTER,* JETSTREAM? SHE TOO *HOT* FOR YOU TO HANDLE?
CATSEYE! NO! SHE'S A *FLAME* CREATURE!
NEVER MIND, JETSTREAM! I KEEP PRETTY HOTTOP DOWN!

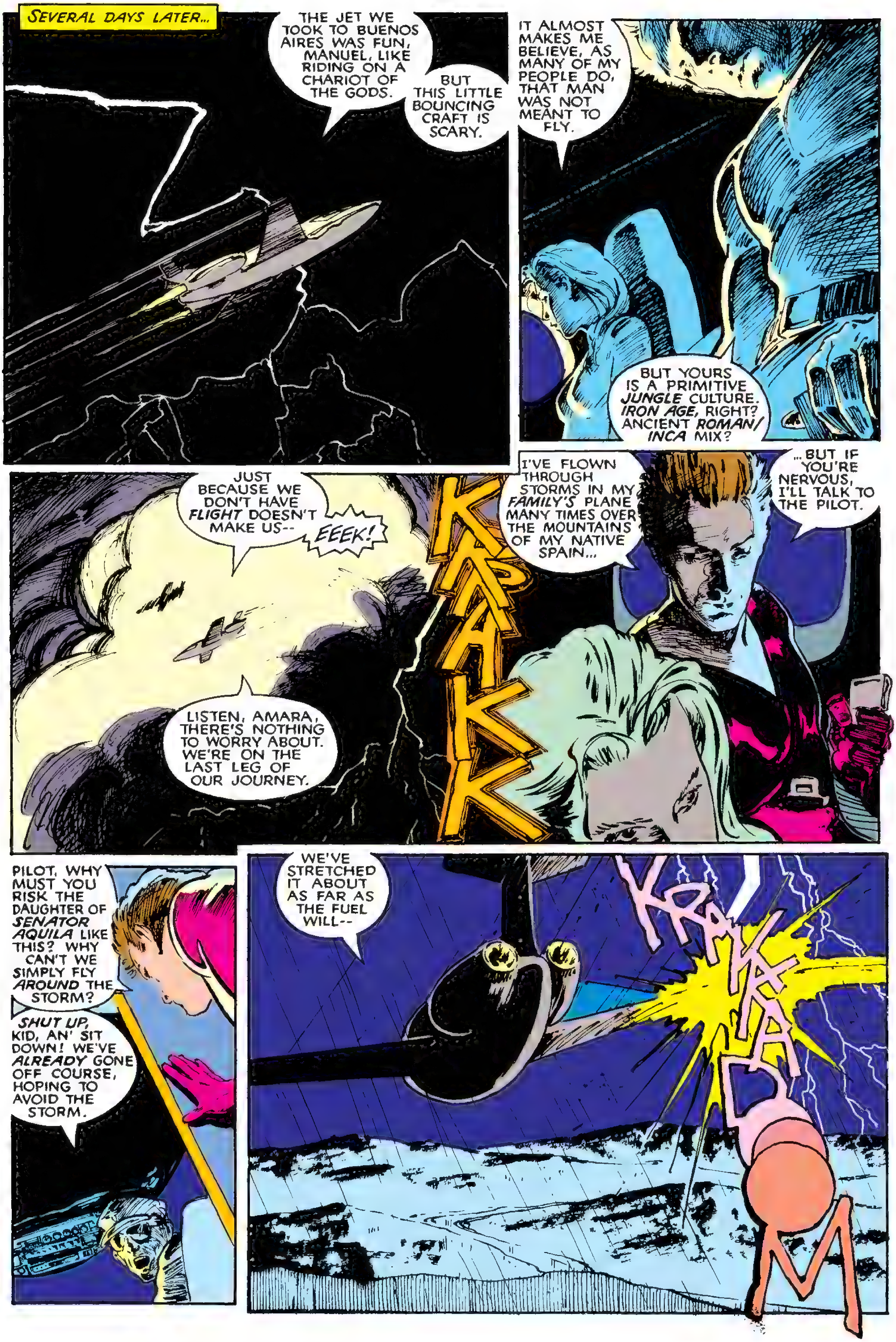

SHE'D FRY YOU TO A CRISP!
EMPATH, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? GET IN THERE! POSSESS HER!
FWOMP
GOOD TRY, MAGMA, BUT STILL YOU LOSE!
GO ON, EMPATH, CALM HER DOWN, DARN IT! MAKE HER STOP FIGHTING!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL BEAT HER, ISN'T IT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT US, DO YOU, AMARA?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HARM US. YOU'RE ONE OF US, NOW.
YOU LOVE US!


I *LOVE* YOU... I *WANT*... I WANT...
NO!
GET OUT OF MY *HEART!*
LEAVE ME *ALONE!*
Em-path has a GIRL-FRIEND!
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, EMPATH? GOING SOFT?
YOU *RESPECT* HER TOO MUCH TO REALLY TAKE HER OVER!
I DO NOT HAVE A *GIRL FRIEND*...
...AND WHO AMONG YOU WOULD BE WORTHY OF MY *RESPECT?*
CERTAINLY NOT *YOU*, TAROT, MY DEAR... BUT DON'T YOU WISH THAT YOU WERE?
THAT OVERWHELMING *EMNITY* YOU PROJECT... SO *INTENSE*... SO CLOSE...
...TO *SOME-THING ELSE!*
YOU WISH TO SMOTHER ME WITH KISSES, WISH I CARED FOR YOU LIKE--
OW! MY WRIST!

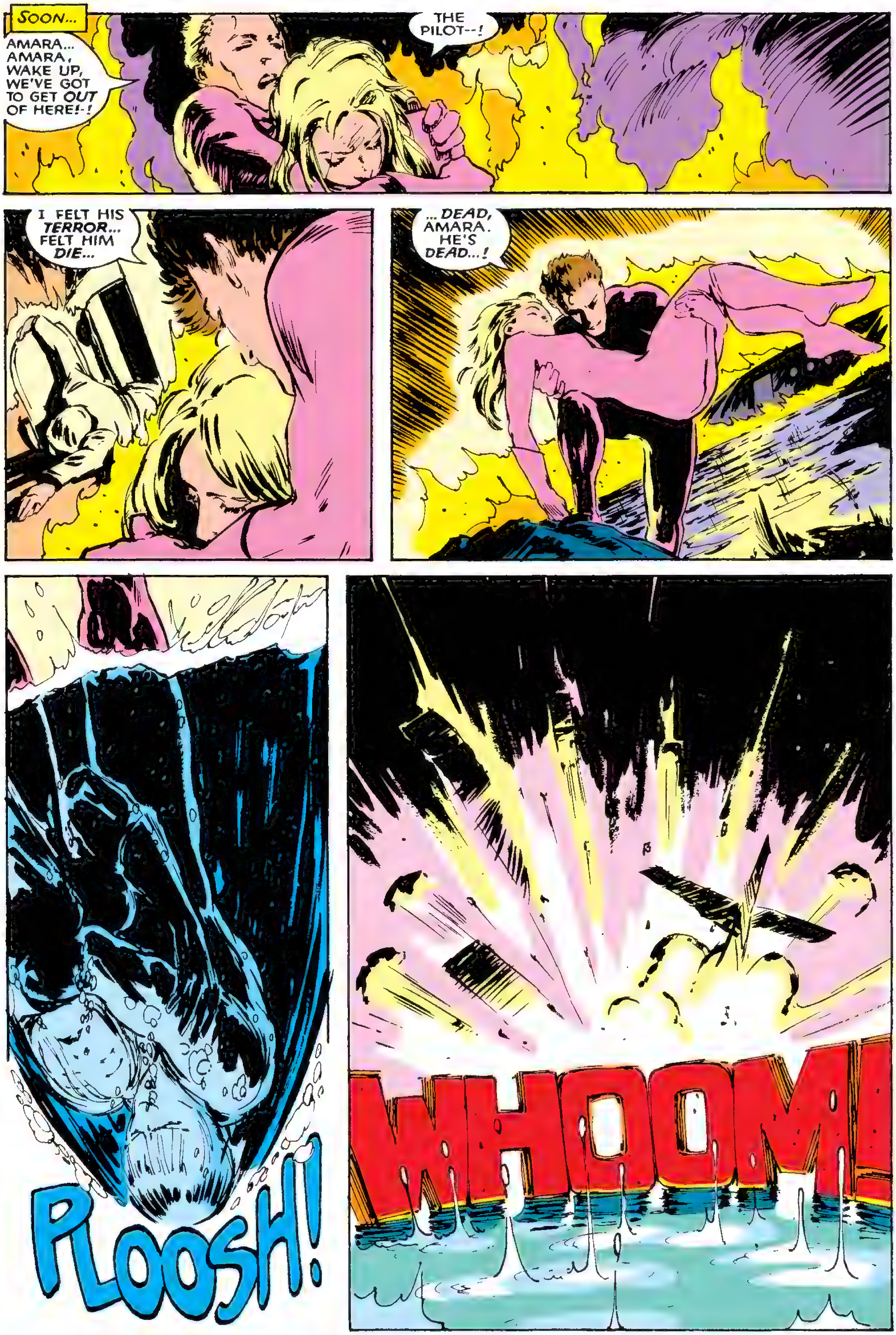

MANUEL... HOW CAN YOU HURT ME... WHEN I LOVE YOU SO?
NO! EMPATH-- MANUEL--DON'T! IT'S HORRIBLE!
STOP! WHY DON'T YOU ALL STOP HIM?
WHAT'S WITH HER?
SHE'S NOT USED TO EMPATH, THAT'S ALL!
YOU ARE A CREEP, AREN'T YOU, EMPATH?
MISS FROST!
AMARA, STOP!
MANUEL, I WARNED YOU ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF GAMES! RELEASE TAROT... AT ONCE!
HERE, AMARA DEAR, I BROUGHT YOU A LETTER FROM YOUR FATHER. THAT SHOULD CHEER YOU UP.
WHAT'S WITH YOU, EMPATH? GOT A CRUSH ON A NEW MUTIE?
WHAT'S WITH ALL OF YOU?

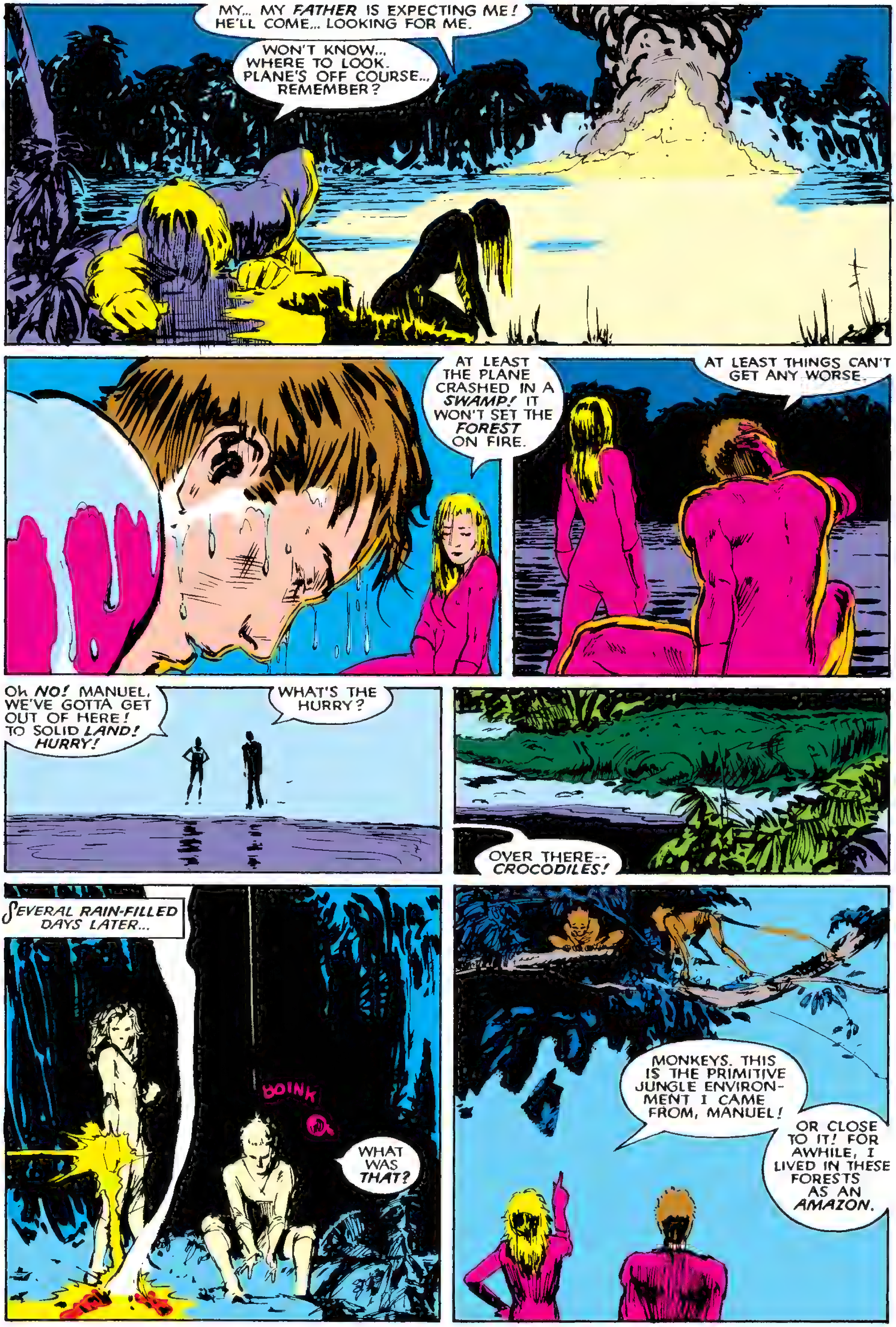

UNLIKE TAROT, AMARA IS STRONG-WILLED AND WELL-TRAINED IN RESISTING MIND CONTROL!
AMARA, DEAR, YOU LOOK UPSET!
MY FATHER WANTS ME TO COME HOME.
Oh, WHAT A SHAME! BUT... WE MUST SEND YOU HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
THE PRACTICE SESSION IS OVER, STUDENTS. AMARA, YOU'LL WANT TO PACK, DEAR.
MANUEL, REMAIN HERE! THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!
YOU WEREN'T REALLY TRYING TO INFLUENCE HER!
SHE'S A TEAMMATE. SHE HATES BEING CONTROLLED, I CAN FEEL IT! NOT LIKE TAROT!
I WOULDN'T HUMILIATE HER IN THAT FASHION.
VERY NOBLE, EMPATH. NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL...
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE SUBTLE INFLUENCE YOU'VE EXERTED ON HER RECENTLY.
INFLUENCE...?
Oh, COME NOW, MANUEL. I AM A TELEPATH. BUT I'M NOT ANGRY.
INDEED, HAD YOU NOT HELD BACK, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED THE PRACTICE SESSION BEFORE YOU OVERCAME HER.
NOT THAT, ON A DIRECT ASSAULT, YOU NECESSARILY COULD HAVE WON. HER TRAINING, SO FAR, HAS BEEN SUPERB.
BUT MY INTERVENTION WASN'T NECESSARY. YOU'RE LEARNING SUBTLETY.
AND BECAUSE YOU ARE, I WANT YOU TO GO WITH AMARA TO VISIT HER FATHER.
ME...? WHY?
OUR SPONSOR ORGANIZATION, THE HELLFIRE CLUB, WANTS AMARA TO REMAIN HERE...
...AND HER FATHER, WHO CONTROLS AN AREA OF GREAT MINERALOGICAL WEALTH, TO BE WELL DISPOSED TO US!
YOU ARE TO SEE THAT HE IS... SUBTLY!

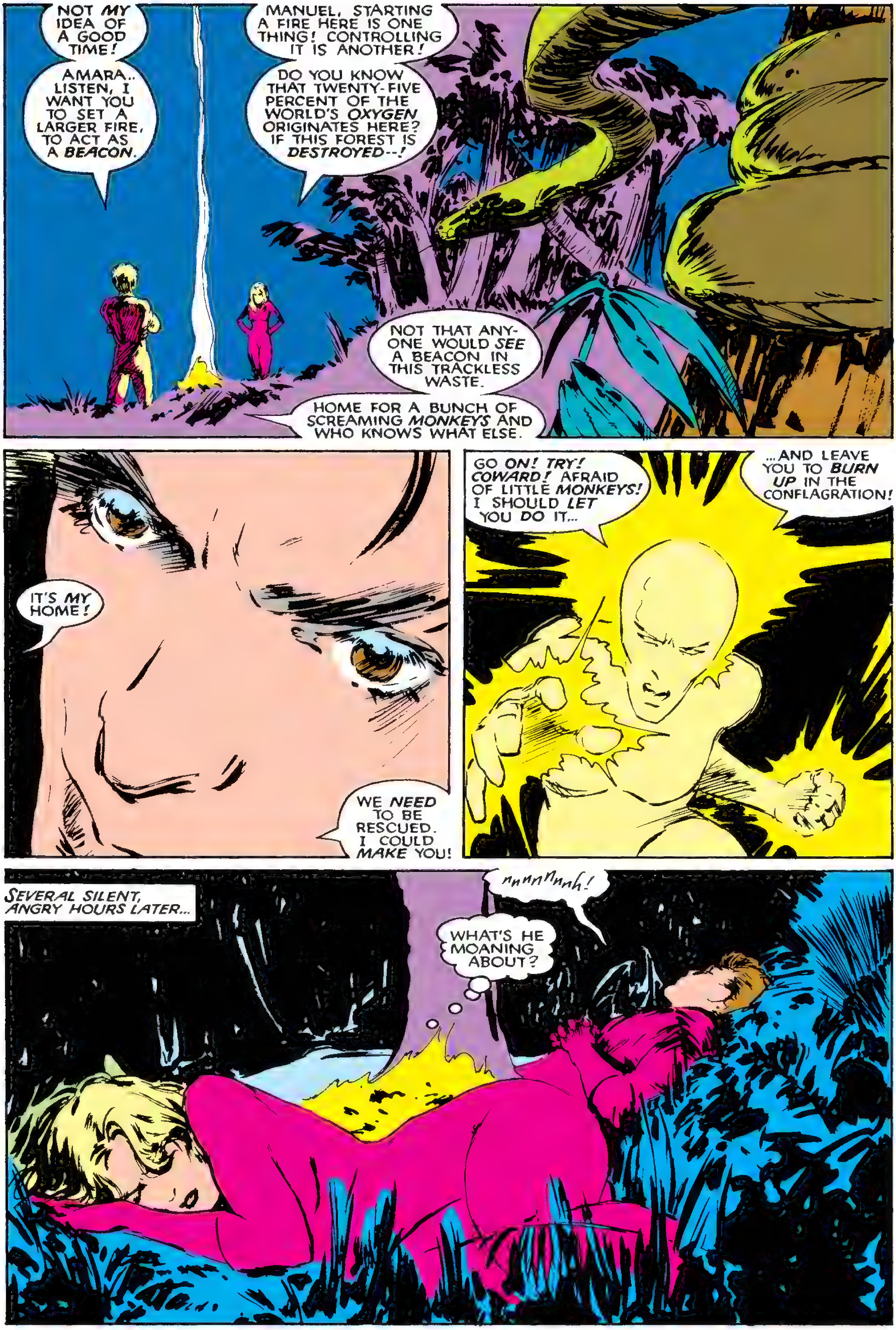

LATER...
YOU'RE *PACKED,* AMARA. READY TO LEAVE SO SOON?
CAN'T *WAIT* FOR ME TO BE GONE, CAN YOU, MANUEL? I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT YOUR *RESPECT* FOR... ALL OF US.
ONLY I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE. THERE'S SO MUCH IN THIS COUNTRY I WANT TO EXPERIENCE!
THEN DON'T GO!
MY FATHER *COMMANDED* ME AND--
LOOK, YOU COULDN'T *POSSIBLY* UNDERSTAND. OUR CULTURE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM YOURS AND--
SHE LIKES YOU... A LOT... AND SHE'S HURT... AND JEALOUS BECAUSE I'M HERE! AND YOU *TORMENT* HER!
JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE,* MANUEL, OR HAVE YOU COME TO *TORMENT* ME LIKE YOU TORMENTED POOR TAROT!
...OR HAVEN'T YOU *NOTICED.*
IT'S SO *EASY* FOR YOU TO MAKE PEOPLE LOVE YOU, ISN'T IT?
NOT SO EASY AS MAKING THEM *HATE* ME...
LISTEN, 'MARA, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU! MISS FROST SAYS I'M TO COME WITH YOU!
BUT... WHY?
MAYBE... SO I CAN CONVINCE YOUR *FATHER* TO LET YOU STAY.

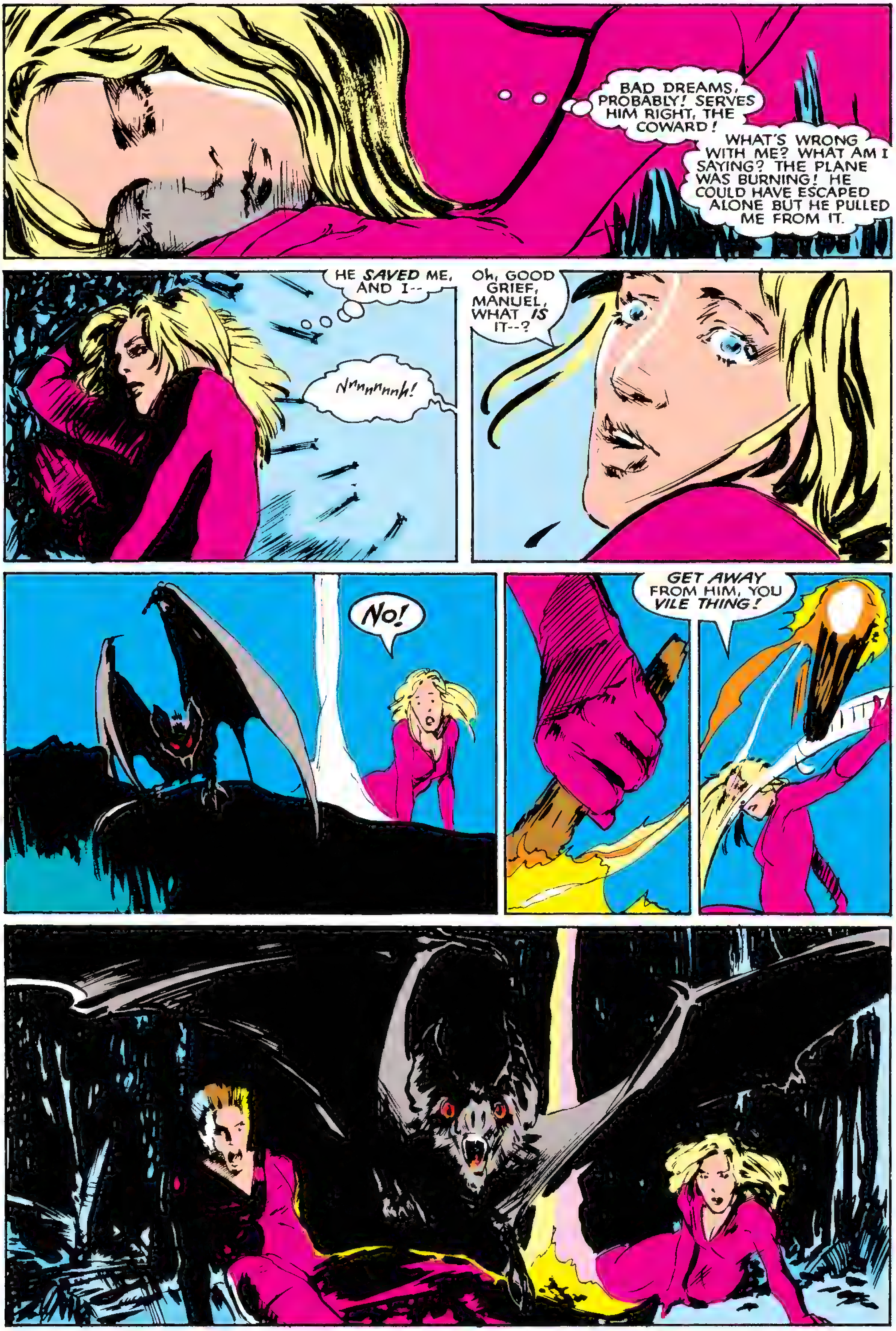

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
THE JET WE TOOK TO BUENOS AIRES WAS FUN, MANUEL, LIKE RIDING ON A CHARIOT OF THE GODS.
BUT THIS LITTLE BOUNCING CRAFT IS SCARY.
IT ALMOST MAKES ME BELIEVE, AS MANY OF MY PEOPLE DO, THAT MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO FLY.
BUT YOURS IS A PRIMITIVE *JUNGLE* CULTURE. *IRON AGE*, RIGHT? ANCIENT *ROMAN/INCA* MIX?
JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE *FLIGHT* DOESN'T MAKE US--
EEEK!
KRAKK
LISTEN, AMARA, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. WE'RE ON THE LAST LEG OF OUR JOURNEY.
I'VE FLOWN THROUGH STORMS IN MY *FAMILY'S* PLANE MANY TIMES OVER THE MOUNTAINS OF MY NATIVE SPAIN...
...BUT IF YOU'RE NERVOUS, I'LL TALK TO THE PILOT.
PILOT, WHY MUST YOU RISK THE DAUGHTER OF *SENATOR AQUILA* LIKE THIS? WHY CAN'T WE SIMPLY FLY *AROUND* THE STORM?
SHUT UP, KID, AN' SIT DOWN! WE'VE *ALREADY* GONE OFF COURSE, HOPING TO AVOID THE STORM.
WE'VE STRETCHED IT ABOUT AS FAR AS THE FUEL WILL--
KRAKADOOM

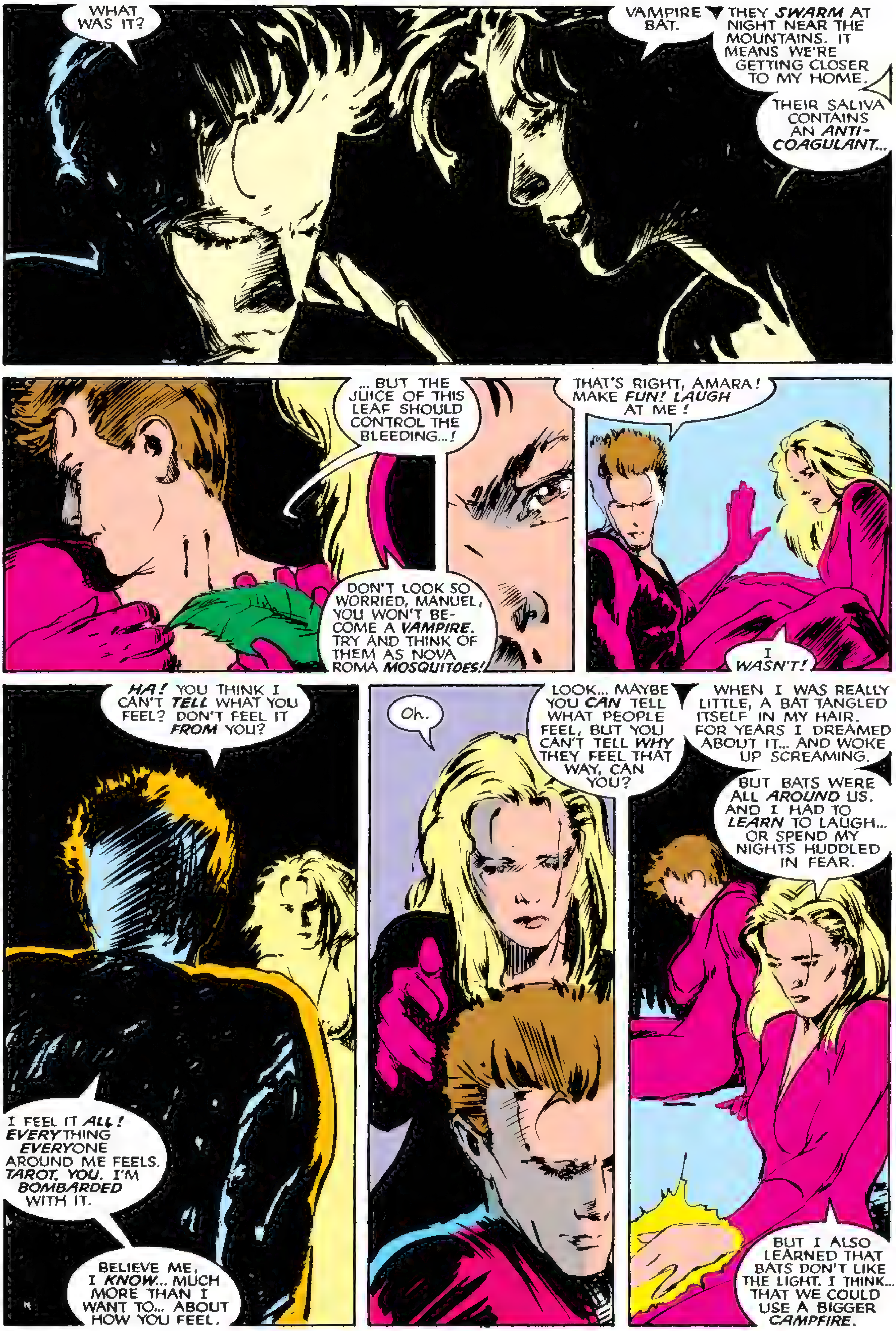
AMARA! WE'VE BEEN HIT! WE'RE GOING DOWN!
WE'RE DEAD!
NOT NECESSARILY! I'VE FLOWN ALL MY LIFE. A LITTLE PLANE LIKE THIS WILL GLIDE.
THERE'S AN EMPTY STRETCH AHEAD. THE PILOT WILL MAKE FOR THAT!
WE MUST GET OUT! AWAY FROM HERE!
--OW!
BANG
AMARA, NO! STAY BUCKLED UP. BRACE YOURSELF... I'LL SHOW YOU HOW!
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, AMARA! YOU'RE CALM... WILL I HAVE TO TAKE YOU OVER TO MAKE YOU CALM?
NO--!
NO!
CRUNCH

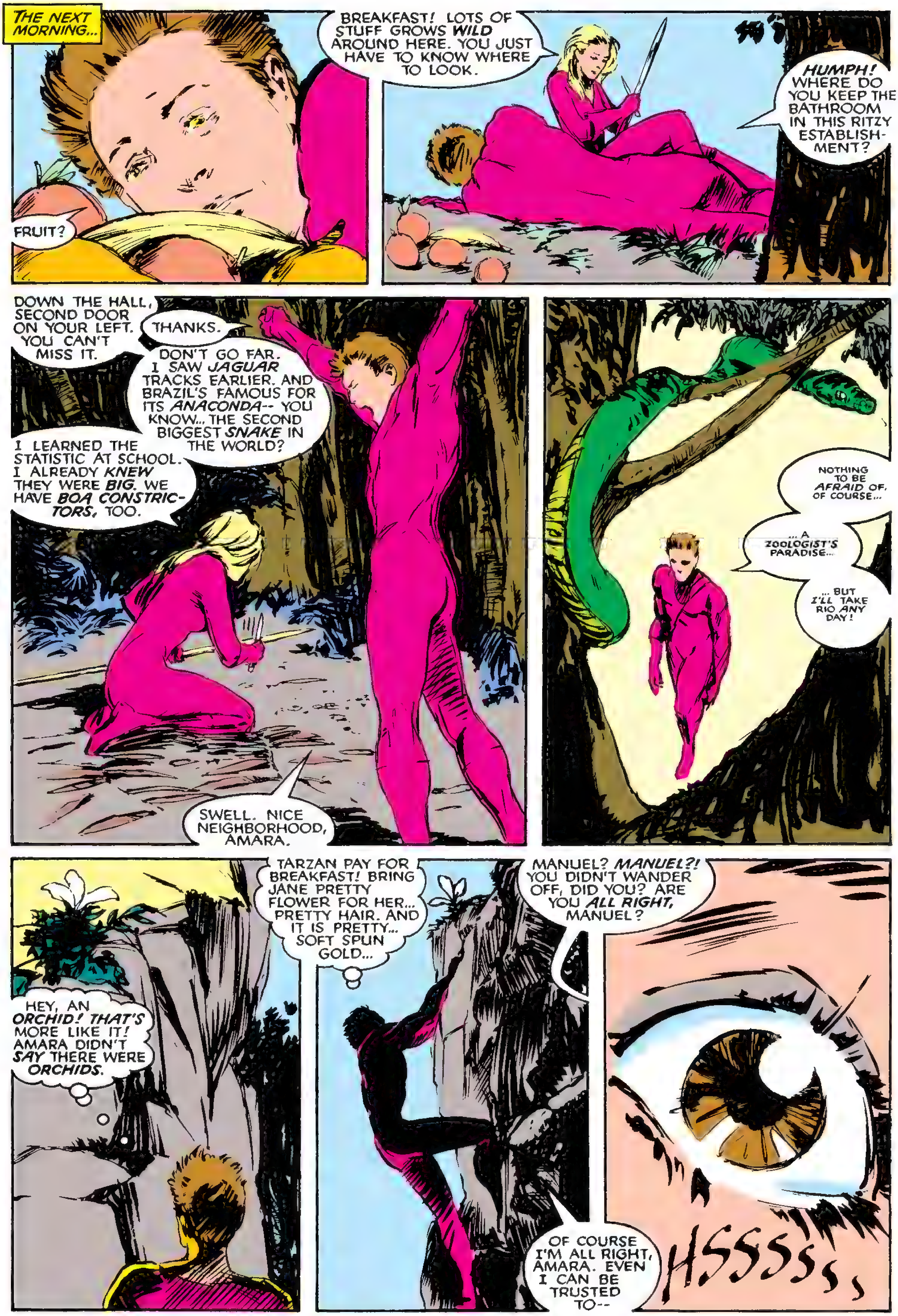

SOON...
AMARA... AMARA, WAKE UP, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!-!
THE PILOT--!
I FELT HIS TERROR... FELT HIM DIE...
...DEAD, AMARA. HE'S DEAD...!
PLOOSH!
WHOOM!

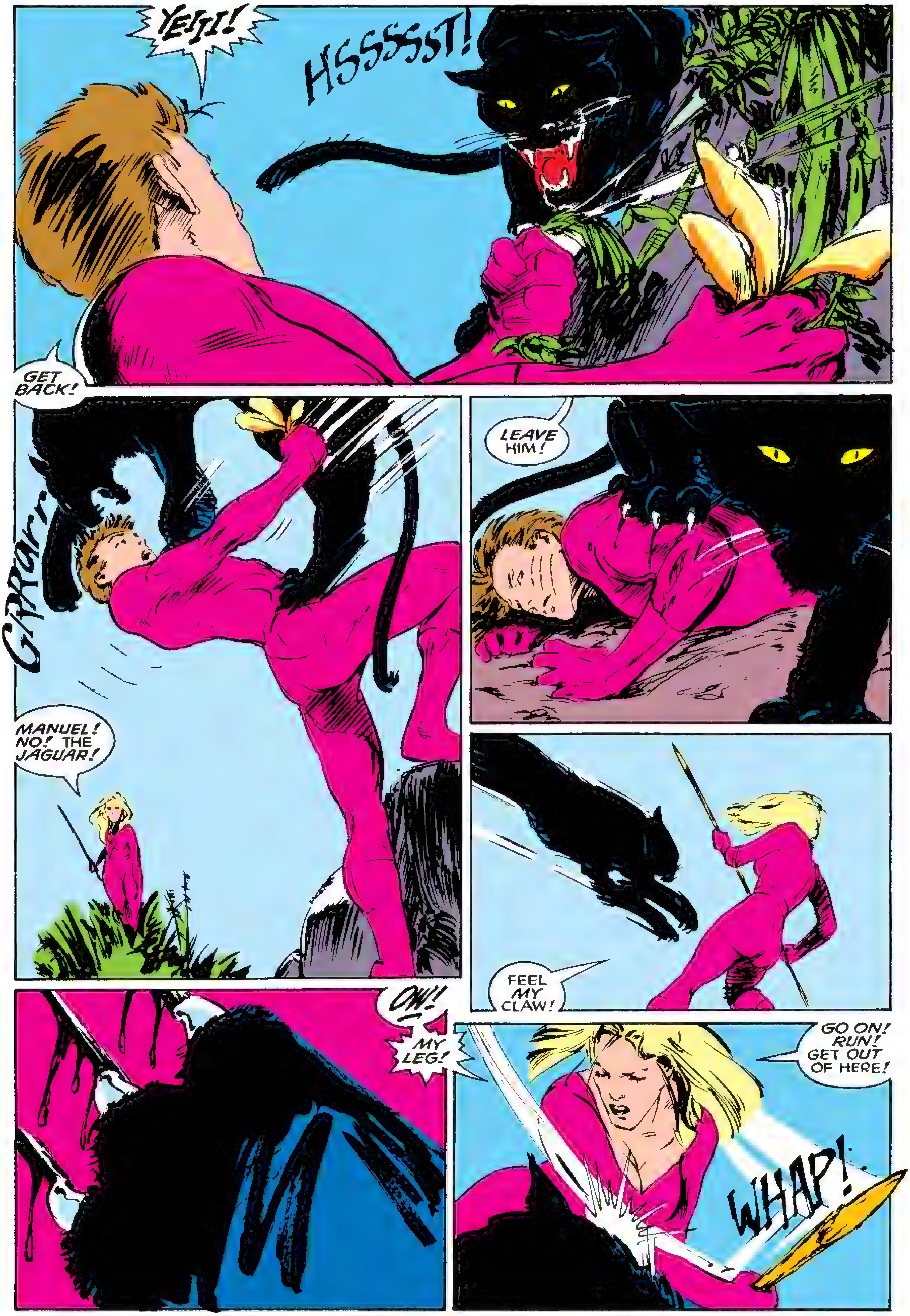

MY... MY FATHER IS EXPECTING ME! HE'LL COME... LOOKING FOR ME.
WON'T KNOW... WHERE TO LOOK. PLANE'S OFF COURSE... REMEMBER?
AT LEAST THE PLANE CRASHED IN A SWAMP! IT WON'T SET THE FOREST ON FIRE.
AT LEAST THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE.
Oh NO! MANUEL, WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! TO SOLID LAND! HURRY!
WHAT'S THE HURRY?
OVER THERE-- CROCODILES!
SEVERAL RAIN-FILLED DAYS LATER...
BOINK
WHAT WAS THAT?
MONKEYS. THIS IS THE PRIMITIVE JUNGLE ENVIRONMENT I CAME FROM, MANUEL!
OR CLOSE TO IT! FOR AWHILE, I LIVED IN THESE FORESTS AS AN AMAZON.

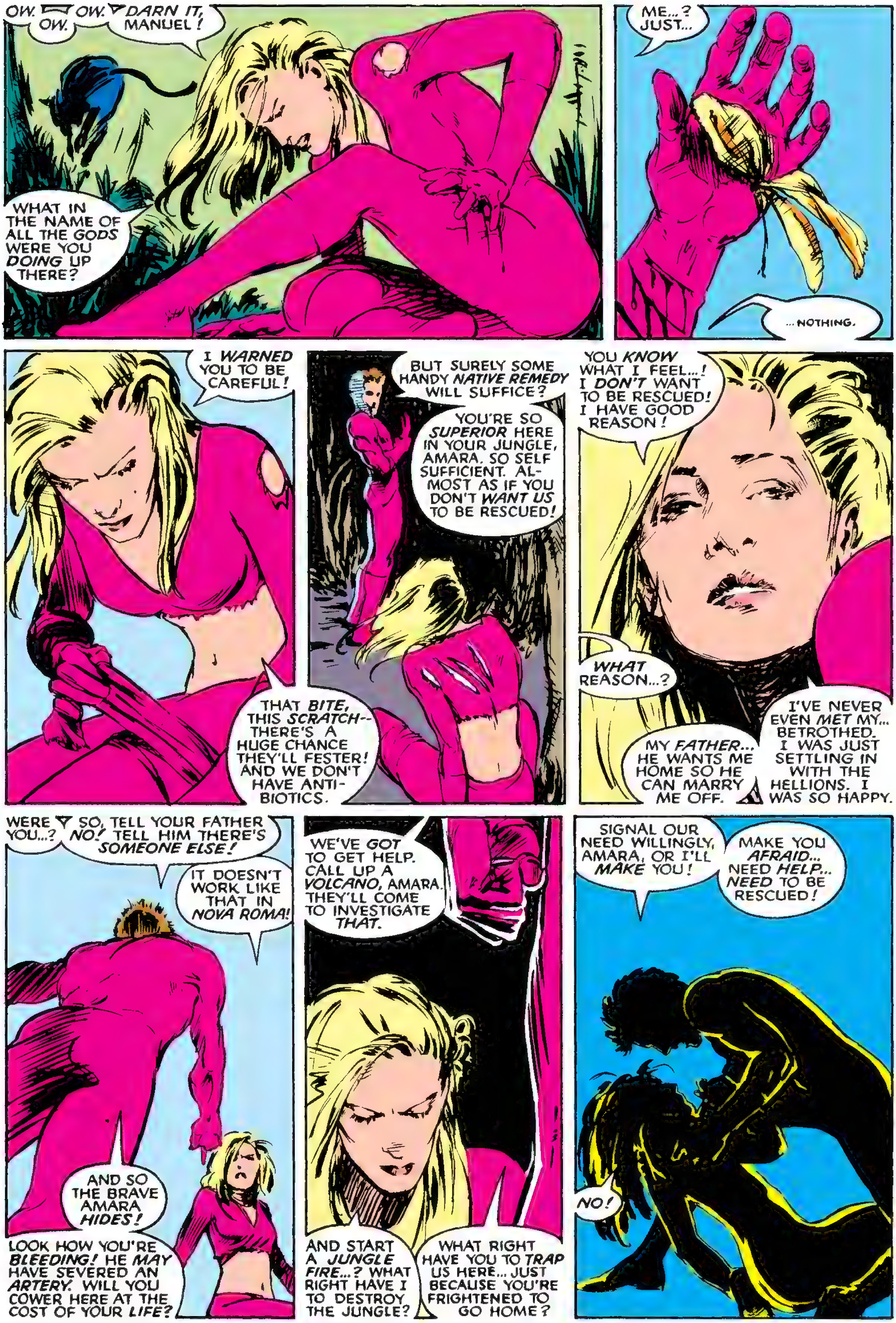

NOT *MY* IDEA OF A GOOD TIME!
AMARA.. LISTEN, I WANT YOU TO SET A LARGER FIRE, TO ACT AS A *BEACON*.
MANUEL, STARTING A FIRE HERE IS ONE THING! CONTROLLING IT IS ANOTHER!
DO YOU KNOW THAT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S *OXYGEN* ORIGINATES HERE? IF THIS FOREST IS *DESTROYED*--!
NOT THAT ANYONE WOULD *SEE* A BEACON IN THIS TRACKLESS WASTE.
HOME FOR A BUNCH OF SCREAMING *MONKEYS* AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE.
IT'S *MY* HOME!
WE *NEED* TO BE RESCUED. I COULD *MAKE* YOU!
GO *ON*! *TRY*! *COWARD*! AFRAID OF LITTLE *MONKEYS*! I SHOULD *LET* YOU *DO* IT...
...AND LEAVE YOU TO *BURN UP* IN THE CONFLAGRATION!
SEVERAL SILENT, ANGRY HOURS LATER...
nnnnnnh!
WHAT'S HE MOANING ABOUT?

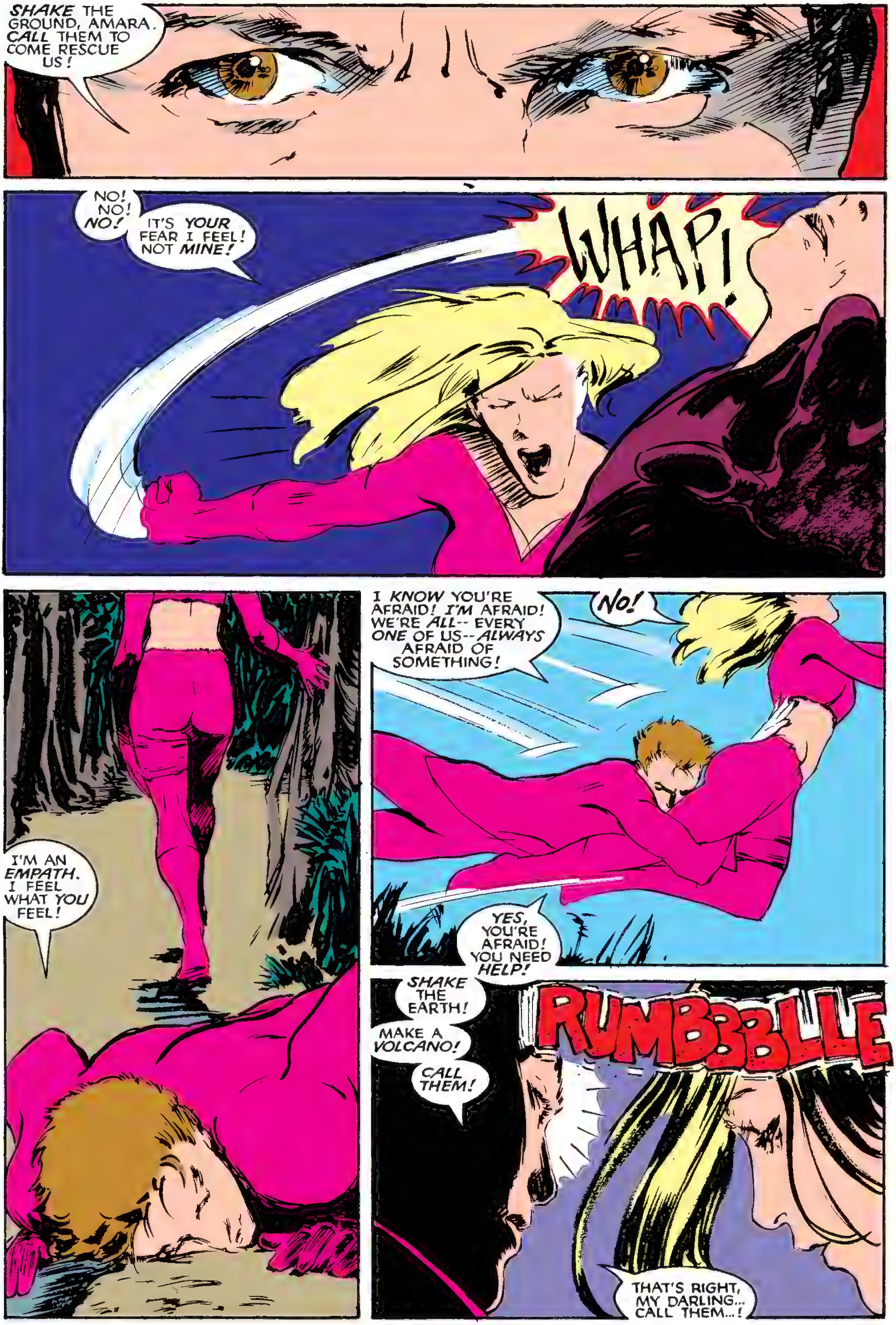

BAD DREAMS, PROBABLY! SERVES HIM RIGHT, THE COWARD!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WHAT AM I SAYING? THE PLANE WAS BURNING! HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED ALONE BUT HE PULLED ME FROM IT.
HE SAVED ME, AND I--
Nnnnnnnh!
Oh, GOOD GRIEF, MANUEL, WHAT IS IT--?
No!
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU VILE THING!

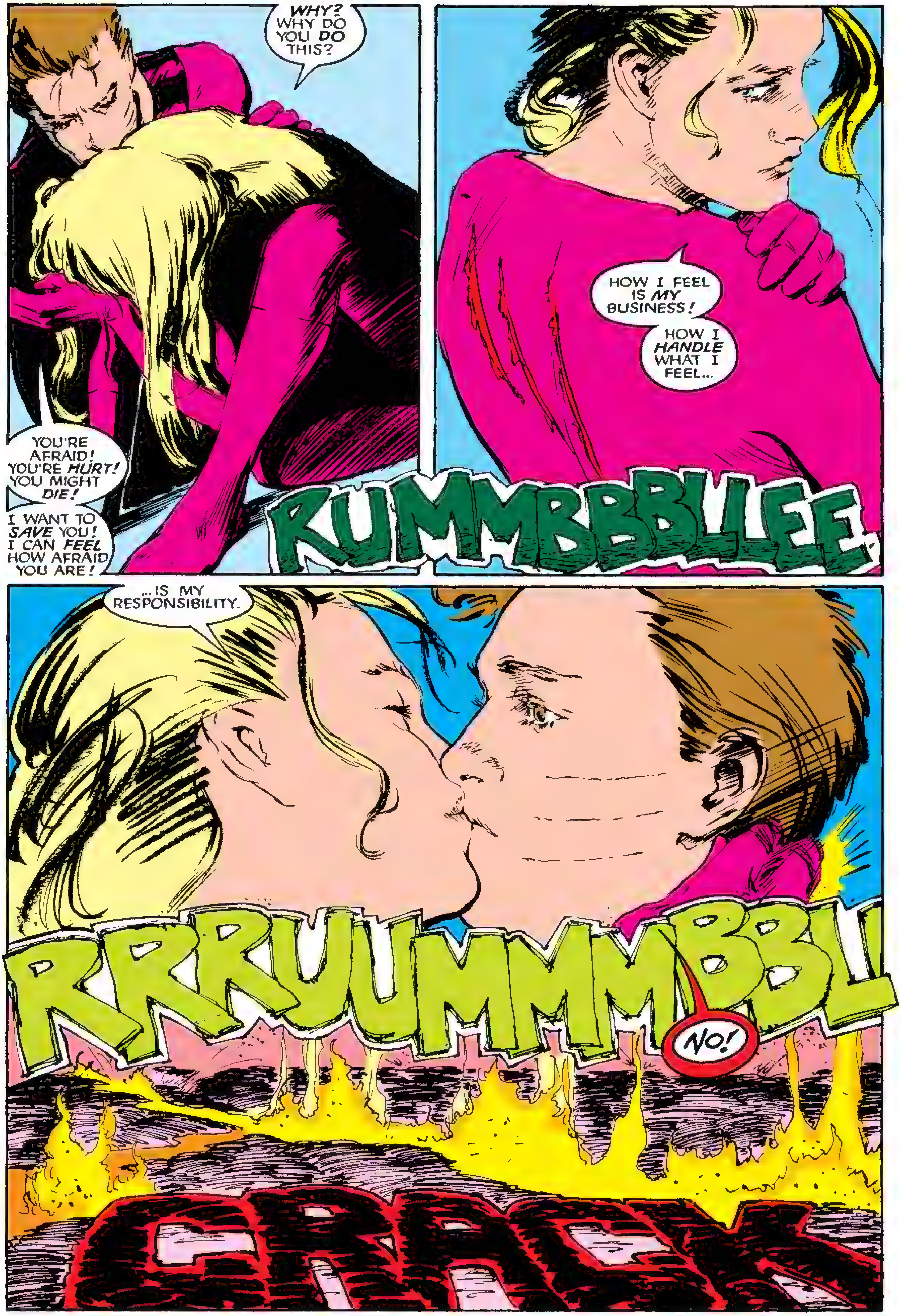

WHAT WAS IT?
VAMPIRE BAT.
THEY *SWARM* AT NIGHT NEAR THE MOUNTAINS. IT MEANS WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO MY HOME.
THEIR SALIVA CONTAINS AN *ANTI-COAGULANT*...
... BUT THE JUICE OF THIS LEAF SHOULD CONTROL THE BLEEDING...!
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED, MANUEL. YOU WON'T BECOME A *VAMPIRE*. TRY AND THINK OF THEM AS NOVA ROMA *MOSQUITOES!*
THAT'S RIGHT, AMARA! MAKE *FUN! LAUGH* AT ME!
I *WASN'T!*
HA! YOU THINK I CAN'T *TELL* WHAT YOU FEEL? DON'T FEEL IT *FROM* YOU?
I FEEL IT *ALL! EVERY*THING *EVERY*ONE AROUND ME FEELS. *TAROT. YOU.* I'M *BOMBARDED* WITH IT.
BELIEVE ME, I *KNOW*... MUCH MORE THAN I WANT TO... ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL.
Oh.
LOOK... MAYBE YOU *CAN* TELL WHAT PEOPLE FEEL, BUT YOU CAN'T TELL *WHY* THEY FEEL THAT WAY, CAN YOU?
WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE, A BAT TANGLED ITSELF IN MY HAIR. FOR YEARS I DREAMED ABOUT IT... AND WOKE UP SCREAMING.
BUT BATS WERE ALL *AROUND* US. AND I HAD TO *LEARN* TO LAUGH... OR SPEND MY NIGHTS HUDDLED IN FEAR.
BUT I ALSO LEARNED THAT BATS DON'T LIKE THE LIGHT. I THINK... THAT WE COULD USE A BIGGER *CAMPFIRE*.

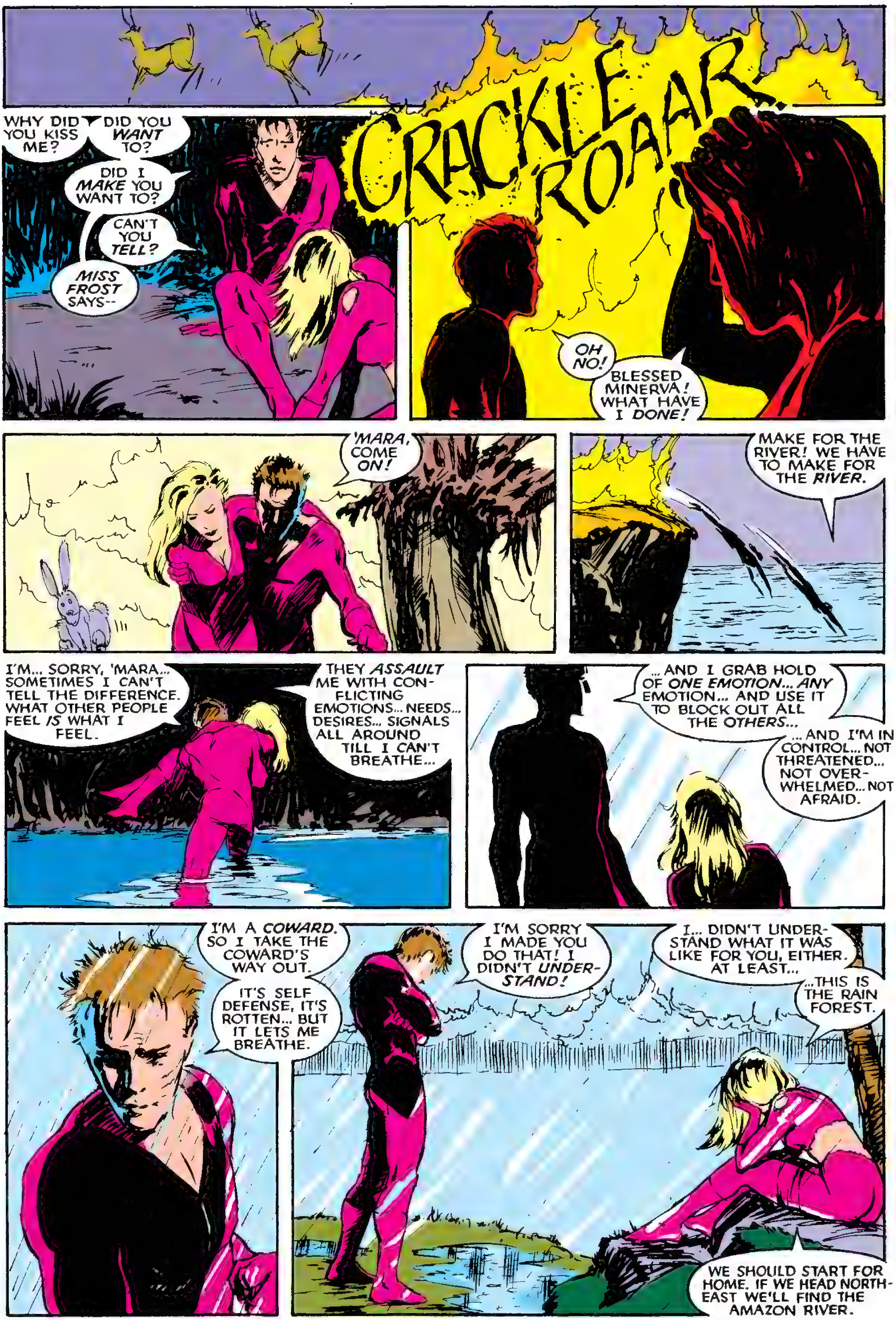

THE NEXT MORNING...
FRUIT?
BREAKFAST! LOTS OF STUFF GROWS WILD AROUND HERE. YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
HUMPH! WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE BATHROOM IN THIS RITZY ESTABLISHMENT?
DOWN THE HALL, SECOND DOOR ON YOUR LEFT. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
THANKS.
DON'T GO FAR. I SAW JAGUAR TRACKS EARLIER. AND BRAZIL'S FAMOUS FOR ITS ANACONDA-- YOU KNOW... THE SECOND BIGGEST SNAKE IN THE WORLD?
I LEARNED THE STATISTIC AT SCHOOL. I ALREADY KNEW THEY WERE BIG. WE HAVE BOA CONSTRICTORS, TOO.
SWELL. NICE NEIGHBORHOOD, AMARA.
NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, OF COURSE...
... A ZOOLOGIST'S PARADISE...
... BUT I'LL TAKE RIO ANY DAY!
HEY, AN ORCHID! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! AMARA DIDN'T SAY THERE WERE ORCHIDS.
TARZAN PAY FOR BREAKFAST! BRING JANE PRETTY FLOWER FOR HER... PRETTY HAIR. AND IT IS PRETTY... SOFT SPUN GOLD...
MANUEL? MANUEL?! YOU DIDN'T WANDER OFF, DID YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MANUEL?
OF COURSE I'M ALL RIGHT, AMARA. EVEN I CAN BE TRUSTED TO--
HSSSSss

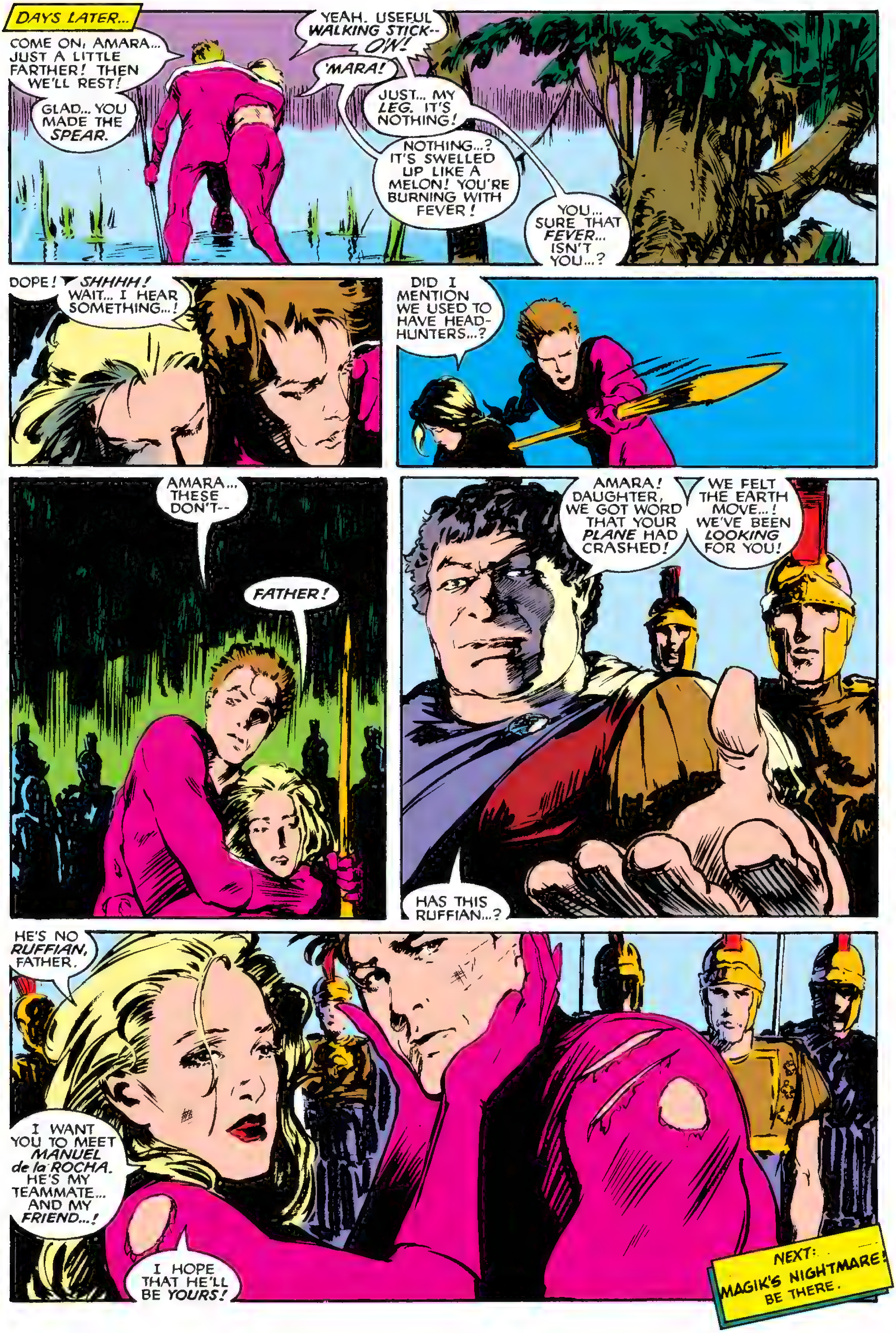

YEIII!
HSSSSST!
GET BACK!
GRRArr
MANUEL! NO! THE JAGUAR!
LEAVE HIM!
FEEL MY CLAW!
OW! MY LEG!
GO ON! RUN! GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAP!


OW. OW. OW. DARN IT, MANUEL!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THE GODS WERE YOU DOING UP THERE?
ME...? JUST...
...NOTHING.
I WARNED YOU TO BE CAREFUL!
THAT BITE, THIS SCRATCH-- THERE'S A HUGE CHANCE THEY'LL FESTER! AND WE DON'T HAVE ANTIBIOTICS.
BUT SURELY SOME HANDY NATIVE REMEDY WILL SUFFICE?
YOU'RE SO SUPERIOR HERE IN YOUR JUNGLE, AMARA. SO SELF SUFFICIENT. ALMOST AS IF YOU DON'T WANT US TO BE RESCUED!
YOU KNOW WHAT I FEEL...! I DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED! I HAVE GOOD REASON!
WHAT REASON...?
MY FATHER... HE WANTS ME HOME SO HE CAN MARRY ME OFF.
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET MY... BETROTHED. I WAS JUST SETTLING IN WITH THE HELLIONS. I WAS SO HAPPY.
WERE YOU...?
SO, TELL YOUR FATHER NO! TELL HIM THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE!
IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT IN NOVA ROMA!
AND SO THE BRAVE AMARA HIDES!
LOOK HOW YOU'RE BLEEDING! HE MAY HAVE SEVERED AN ARTERY. WILL YOU COWER HERE AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFE?
WE'VE GOT TO GET HELP. CALL UP A VOLCANO, AMARA. THEY'LL COME TO INVESTIGATE THAT.
AND START A JUNGLE FIRE...? WHAT RIGHT HAVE I TO DESTROY THE JUNGLE?
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO TRAP US HERE... JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FRIGHTENED TO GO HOME?
SIGNAL OUR NEED WILLINGLY, AMARA, OR I'LL MAKE YOU!
MAKE YOU AFRAID... NEED HELP... NEED TO BE RESCUED!
NO!


SHAKE THE GROUND, AMARA. CALL THEM TO COME RESCUE US!
NO! NO! NO!
IT'S YOUR FEAR I FEEL! NOT MINE!
WHAP!
I'M AN EMPATH. I FEEL WHAT YOU FEEL!
I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID! I'M AFRAID! WE'RE ALL-- EVERY ONE OF US--ALWAYS AFRAID OF SOMETHING!
NO!
YES, YOU'RE AFRAID! YOU NEED HELP!
SHAKE THE EARTH!
MAKE A VOLCANO!
CALL THEM!
RUMBBBLLE
THAT'S RIGHT, MY DARLING... CALL THEM...!


WHY? WHY DO YOU DO THIS?
YOU'RE AFRAID! YOU'RE HURT! YOU MIGHT DIE!
I WANT TO SAVE YOU! I CAN FEEL HOW AFRAID YOU ARE!
HOW I FEEL IS MY BUSINESS!
HOW I HANDLE WHAT I FEEL...
RUMMBBLLEE
...IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.
RRRUUMMMBBL
NO!
CRACK


CRACKLE
ROAAR
WHY DID YOU KISS ME?
DID YOU WANT TO?
DID I MAKE YOU WANT TO?
CAN'T YOU TELL?
MISS FROST SAYS--
OH NO!
BLESSED MINERVA! WHAT HAVE I DONE!
'MARA, COME ON!
MAKE FOR THE RIVER! WE HAVE TO MAKE FOR THE RIVER.
I'M... SORRY, 'MARA... SOMETIMES I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE. WHAT OTHER PEOPLE FEEL IS WHAT I FEEL.
THEY ASSAULT ME WITH CONFLICTING EMOTIONS... NEEDS... DESIRES... SIGNALS ALL AROUND TILL I CAN'T BREATHE...
... AND I GRAB HOLD OF ONE EMOTION... ANY EMOTION... AND USE IT TO BLOCK OUT ALL THE OTHERS...
... AND I'M IN CONTROL... NOT THREATENED... NOT OVERWHELMED... NOT AFRAID.
I'M A COWARD. SO I TAKE THE COWARD'S WAY OUT.
IT'S SELF DEFENSE, IT'S ROTTEN... BUT IT LETS ME BREATHE.
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU DO THAT! I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND!
I... DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR YOU, EITHER. AT LEAST...
...THIS IS THE RAIN FOREST.
WE SHOULD START FOR HOME. IF WE HEAD NORTHEAST WE'LL FIND THE AMAZON RIVER.


DAYS LATER...
COME ON, AMARA... JUST A LITTLE FARTHER! THEN WE'LL REST!
GLAD... YOU MADE THE SPEAR.
YEAH. USEFUL WALKING STICK-- OW!
'MARA!
JUST... MY LEG. IT'S NOTHING!
NOTHING...? IT'S SWELLED UP LIKE A MELON! YOU'RE BURNING WITH FEVER!
YOU... SURE THAT FEVER... ISN'T YOU...?
DOPE!
SHHHH! WAIT... I HEAR SOMETHING...!
DID I MENTION WE USED TO HAVE HEAD-HUNTERS...?
AMARA... THESE DON'T--
FATHER!
AMARA! DAUGHTER, WE GOT WORD THAT YOUR PLANE HAD CRASHED!
WE FELT THE EARTH MOVE...! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
HAS THIS RUFFIAN...?
HE'S NO RUFFIAN, FATHER.
I WANT YOU TO MEET MANUEL de la ROCHA. HE'S MY TEAMMATE... AND MY FRIEND...!
I HOPE THAT HE'LL BE YOURS!
NEXT: MAGIK'S NIGHTMARE! BE THERE.

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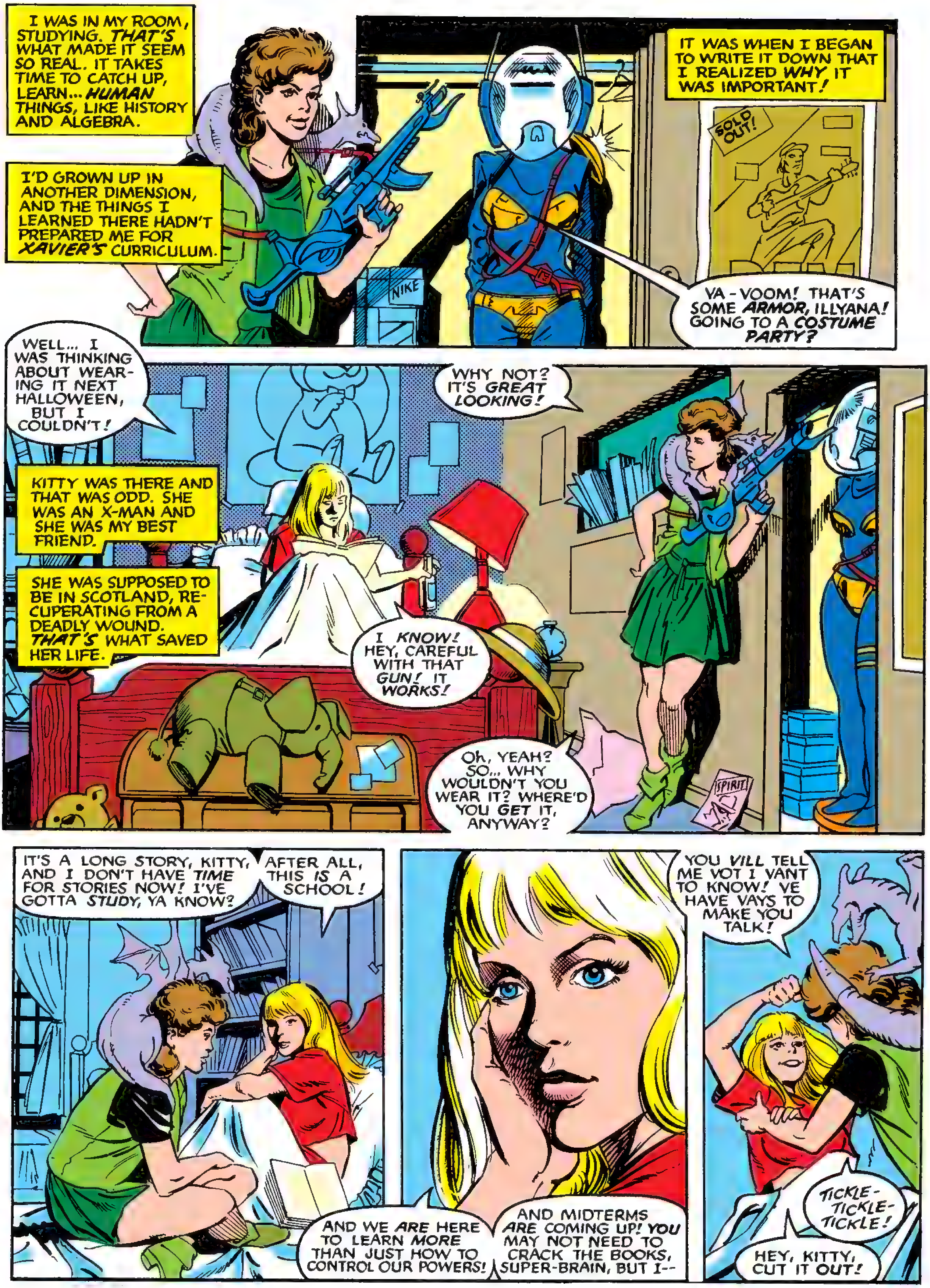
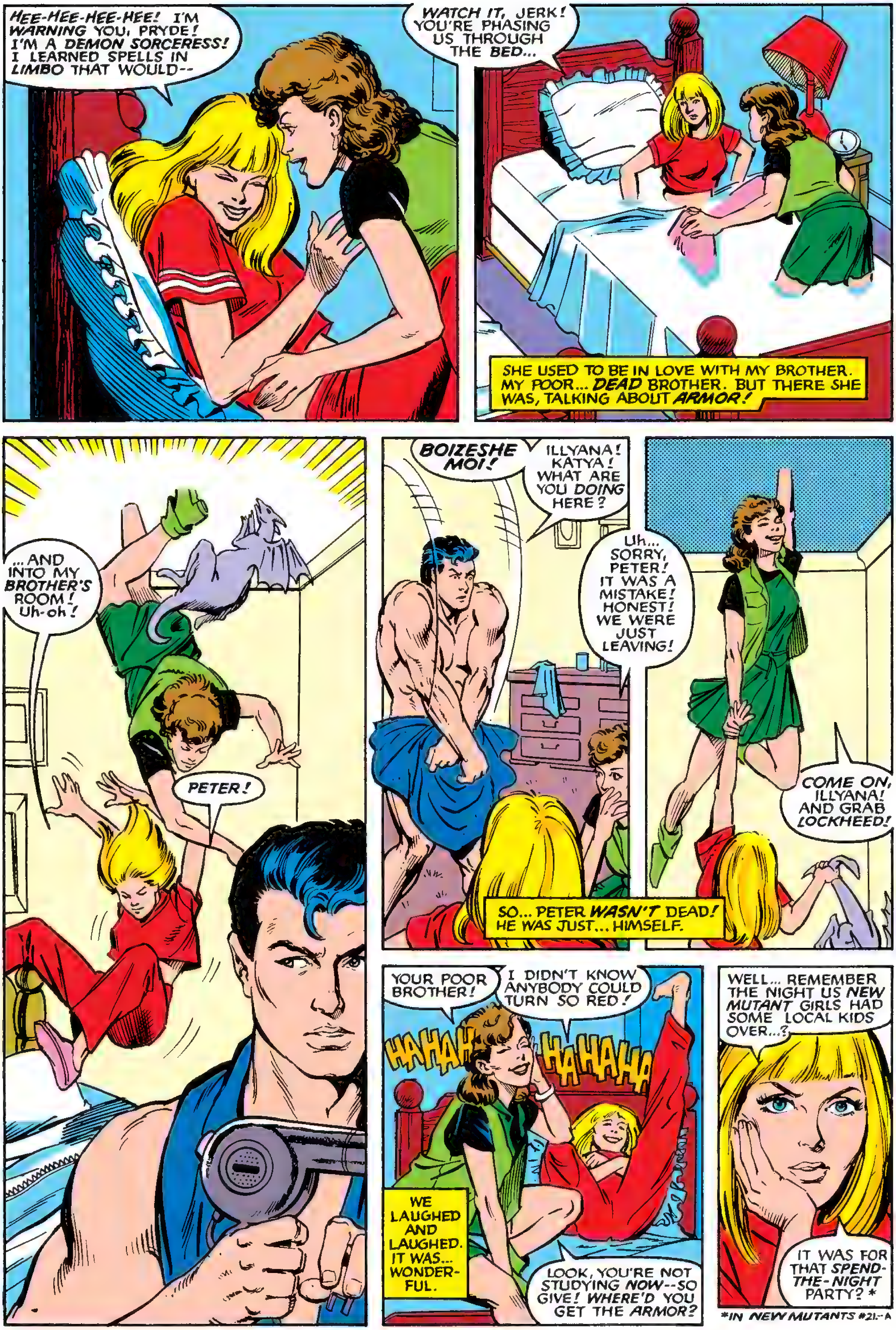
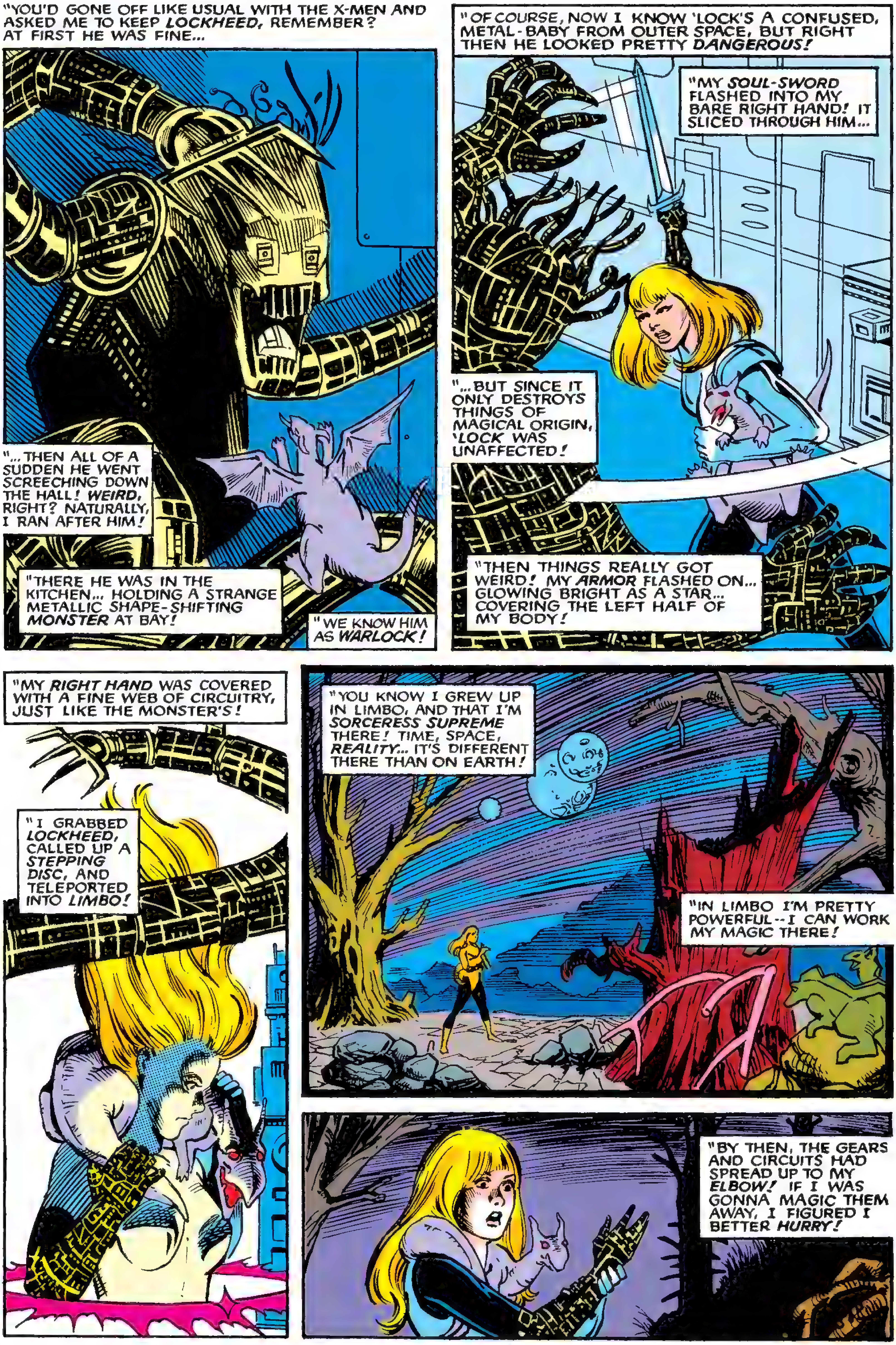
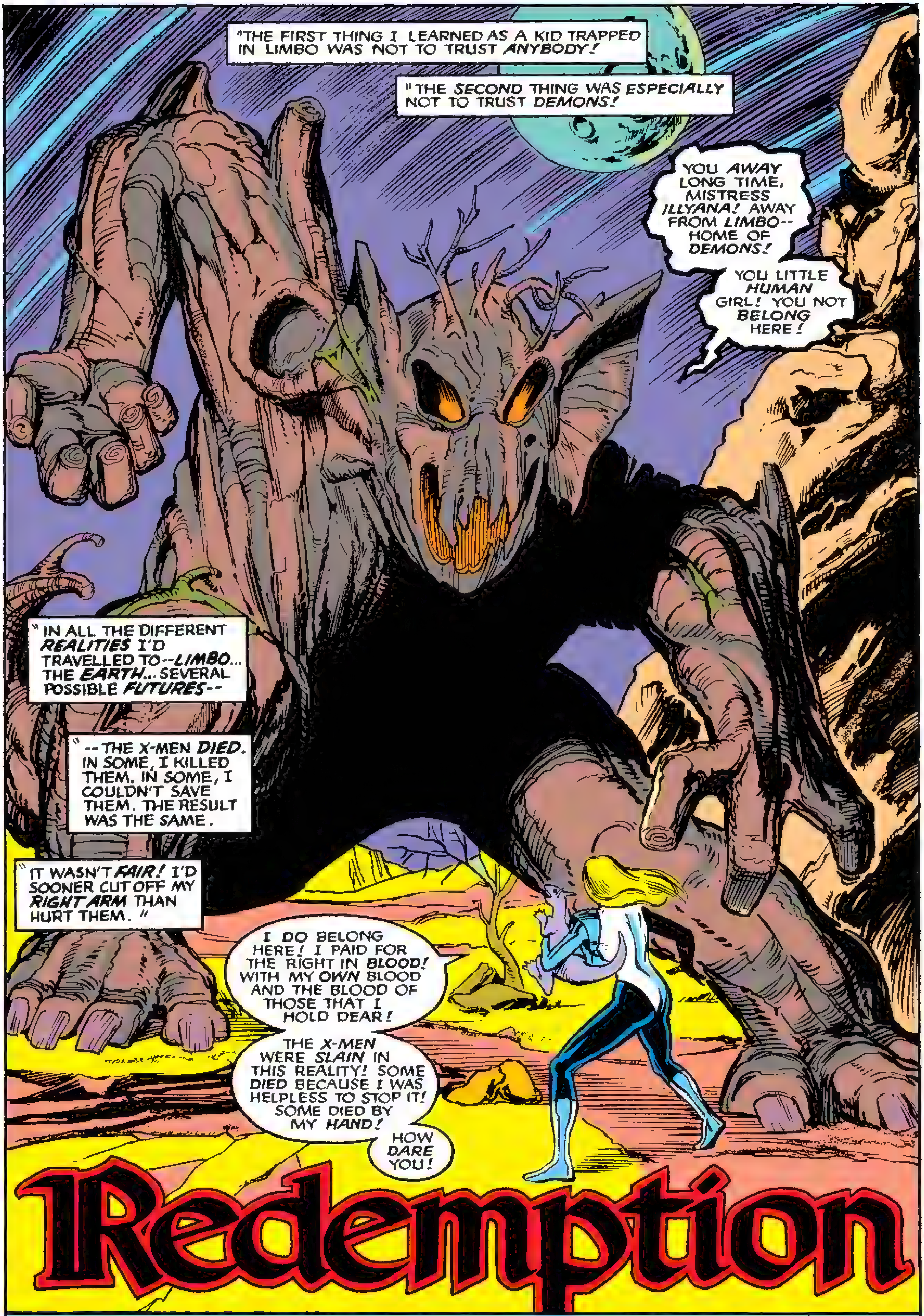

I WAS IN MY ROOM, STUDYING. THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SEEM SO REAL. IT TAKES TIME TO CATCH UP, LEARN... HUMAN THINGS, LIKE HISTORY AND ALGEBRA.
I'D GROWN UP IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, AND THE THINGS I LEARNED THERE HADN'T PREPARED ME FOR XAVIER'S CURRICULUM.
IT WAS WHEN I BEGAN TO WRITE IT DOWN THAT I REALIZED WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT!
SOLD OUT!
NIKE
VA-VOOM! THAT'S SOME ARMOR, ILLYANA! GOING TO A COSTUME PARTY?
WELL... I WAS THINKING ABOUT WEARING IT NEXT HALLOWEEN, BUT I COULDN'T!
WHY NOT? IT'S GREAT LOOKING!
KITTY WAS THERE AND THAT WAS ODD. SHE WAS AN X-MAN AND SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.
SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCOTLAND, RECUPERATING FROM A DEADLY WOUND. THAT'S WHAT SAVED HER LIFE.
I KNOW! HEY, CAREFUL WITH THAT GUN! IT WORKS!
Oh, YEAH? SO... WHY WOULDN'T YOU WEAR IT? WHERE'D YOU GET IT, ANYWAY?
SPIRIT
IT'S A LONG STORY, KITTY, AND I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR STORIES NOW! I'VE GOTTA STUDY, YA KNOW?
AFTER ALL, THIS IS A SCHOOL!
AND WE ARE HERE TO LEARN MORE THAN JUST HOW TO CONTROL OUR POWERS!
AND MIDTERMS ARE COMING UP! YOU MAY NOT NEED TO CRACK THE BOOKS, SUPER-BRAIN, BUT I--
YOU VILL TELL ME VOT I VANT TO KNOW! VE HAVE VAYS TO MAKE YOU TALK!
TICKLE-TICKLE-TICKLE!
HEY, KITTY, CUT IT OUT!

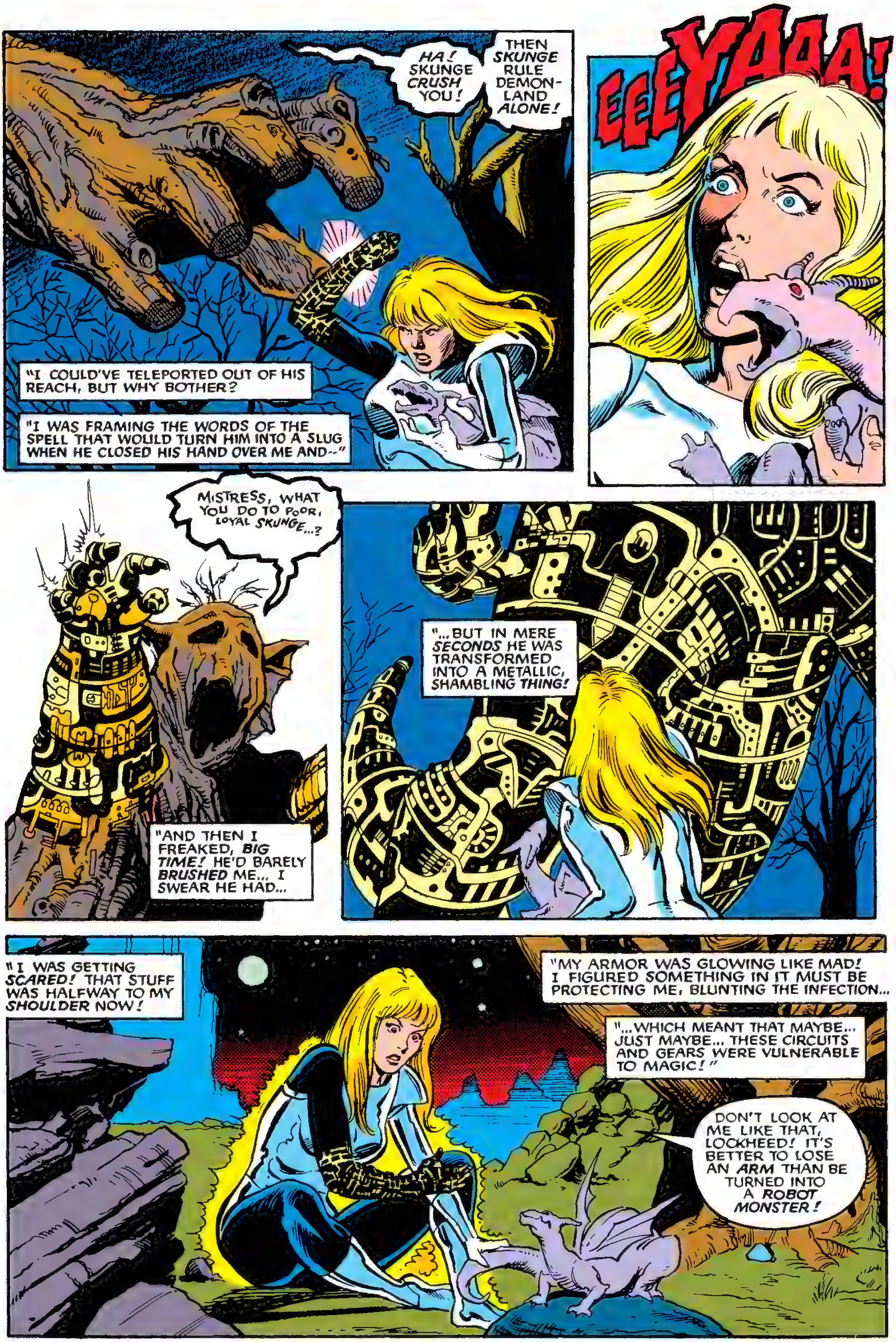

HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE! I'M WARNING YOU, PRYDE! I'M A DEMON SORCERESS! I LEARNED SPELLS IN LIMBO THAT WOULD--
WATCH IT, JERK! YOU'RE PHASING US THROUGH THE BED...
SHE USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH MY BROTHER. MY POOR... DEAD BROTHER. BUT THERE SHE WAS, TALKING ABOUT ARMOR!
...AND INTO MY BROTHER'S ROOM! Uh-oh!
PETER!
BOIZESHE MOI!
ILLYANA! KATYA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Uh... SORRY, PETER! IT WAS A MISTAKE! HONEST! WE WERE JUST LEAVING!
SO... PETER WASN'T DEAD! HE WAS JUST... HIMSELF.
COME ON, ILLYANA! AND GRAB LOCKHEED!
YOUR POOR BROTHER!
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY COULD TURN SO RED!
HAHAHA HAHAHA
WE LAUGHED AND LAUGHED. IT WAS... WONDERFUL.
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT STUDYING NOW--SO GIVE! WHERE'D YOU GET THE ARMOR?
WELL... REMEMBER THE NIGHT US NEW MUTANT GIRLS HAD SOME LOCAL KIDS OVER...?
IT WAS FOR THAT SPEND-THE-NIGHT PARTY? *

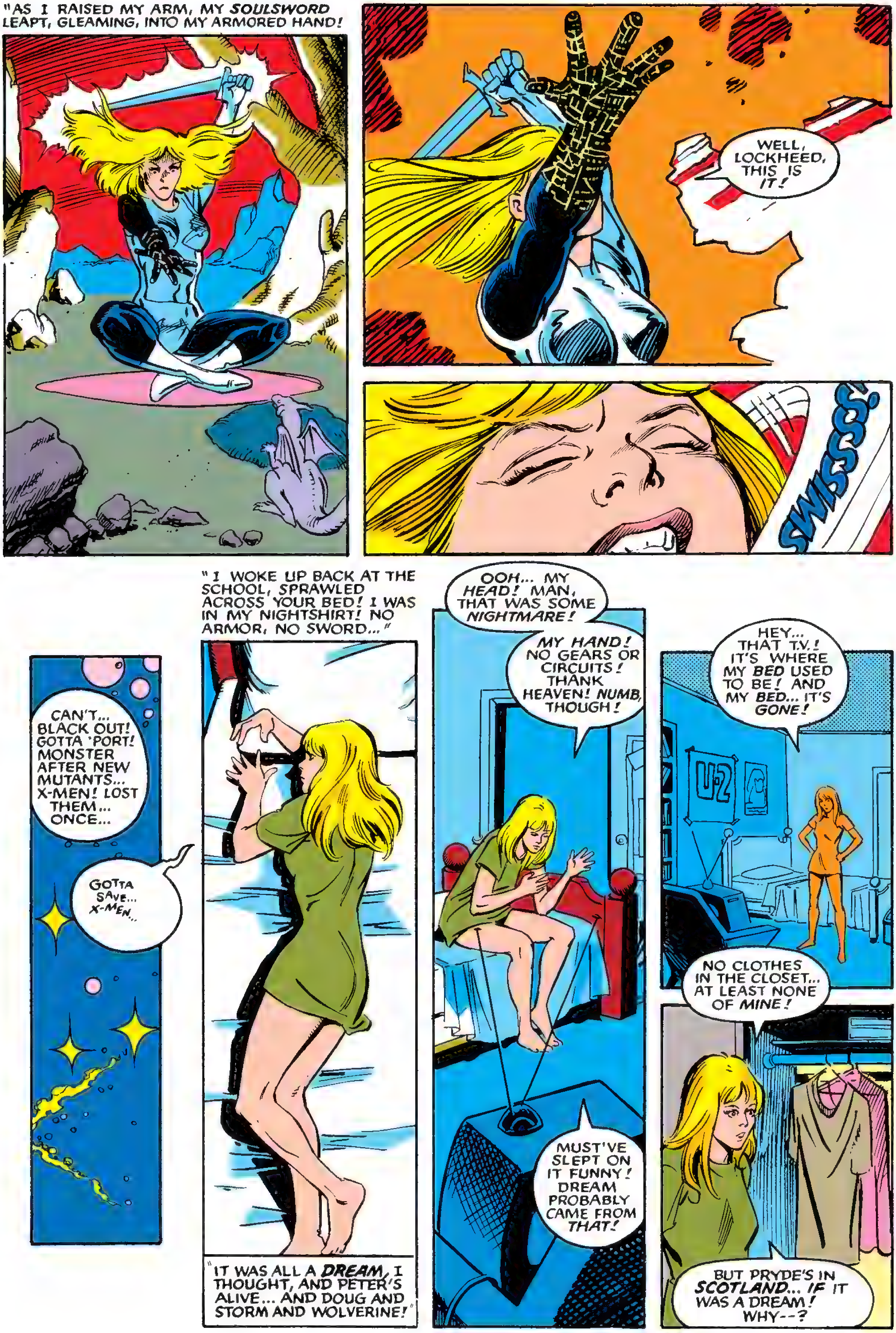
*IN NEW MUTANTS #21.--A

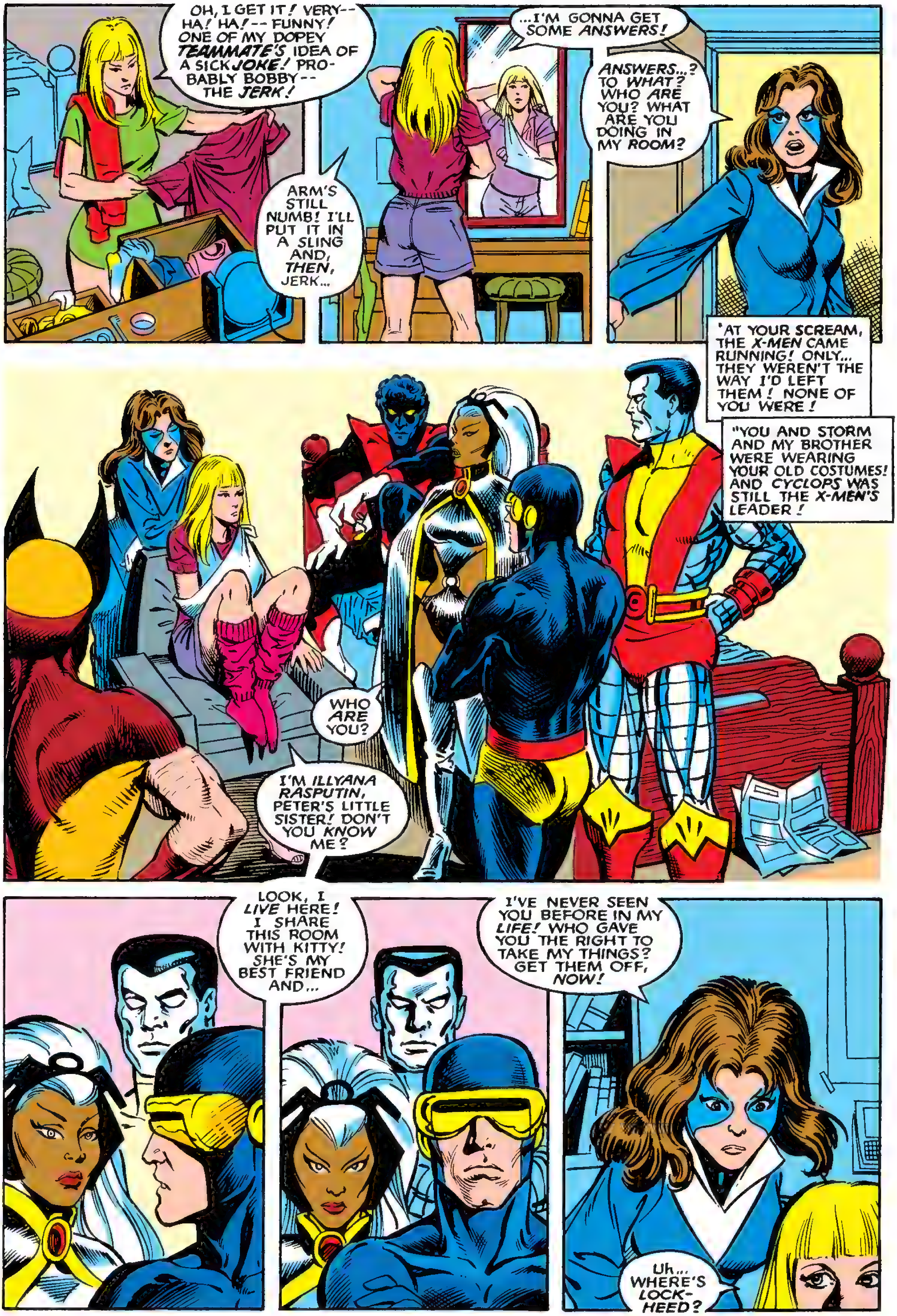

"YOU'D GONE OFF LIKE USUAL WITH THE X-MEN AND ASKED ME TO KEEP *LOCKHEED*, REMEMBER? AT FIRST HE WAS FINE...
"...THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE WENT SCREECHING DOWN THE HALL! *WEIRD*, RIGHT? NATURALLY, I RAN AFTER HIM!
"THERE HE WAS IN THE KITCHEN... HOLDING A STRANGE METALLIC SHAPE-SHIFTING *MONSTER* AT BAY!
"WE KNOW HIM AS *WARLOCK*!
"OF COURSE, NOW I KNOW 'LOCK'S A CONFUSED, METAL-BABY FROM OUTER SPACE, BUT RIGHT THEN HE LOOKED PRETTY *DANGEROUS*!
"MY *SOUL-SWORD* FLASHED INTO MY BARE RIGHT HAND! IT SLICED THROUGH HIM...
"...BUT SINCE IT ONLY DESTROYS THINGS OF MAGICAL ORIGIN, 'LOCK WAS UNAFFECTED!
"THEN THINGS REALLY GOT WEIRD! MY *ARMOR* FLASHED ON... GLOWING BRIGHT AS A STAR... COVERING THE LEFT HALF OF MY BODY!
"MY *RIGHT HAND* WAS COVERED WITH A FINE WEB OF CIRCUITRY, JUST LIKE THE MONSTER'S!
"I GRABBED *LOCKHEED*, CALLED UP A *STEPPING DISC*, AND TELEPORTED INTO *LIMBO*!
"YOU KNOW I GREW UP IN LIMBO, AND THAT I'M *SORCERESS SUPREME* THERE! TIME, SPACE, *REALITY*... IT'S DIFFERENT THERE THAN ON EARTH!
"IN LIMBO I'M PRETTY POWERFUL--I CAN WORK MY MAGIC THERE!
"BY THEN, THE GEARS AND CIRCUITS HAD SPREAD UP TO MY *ELBOW*! IF I WAS GONNA MAGIC THEM AWAY, I FIGURED I BETTER *HURRY*!

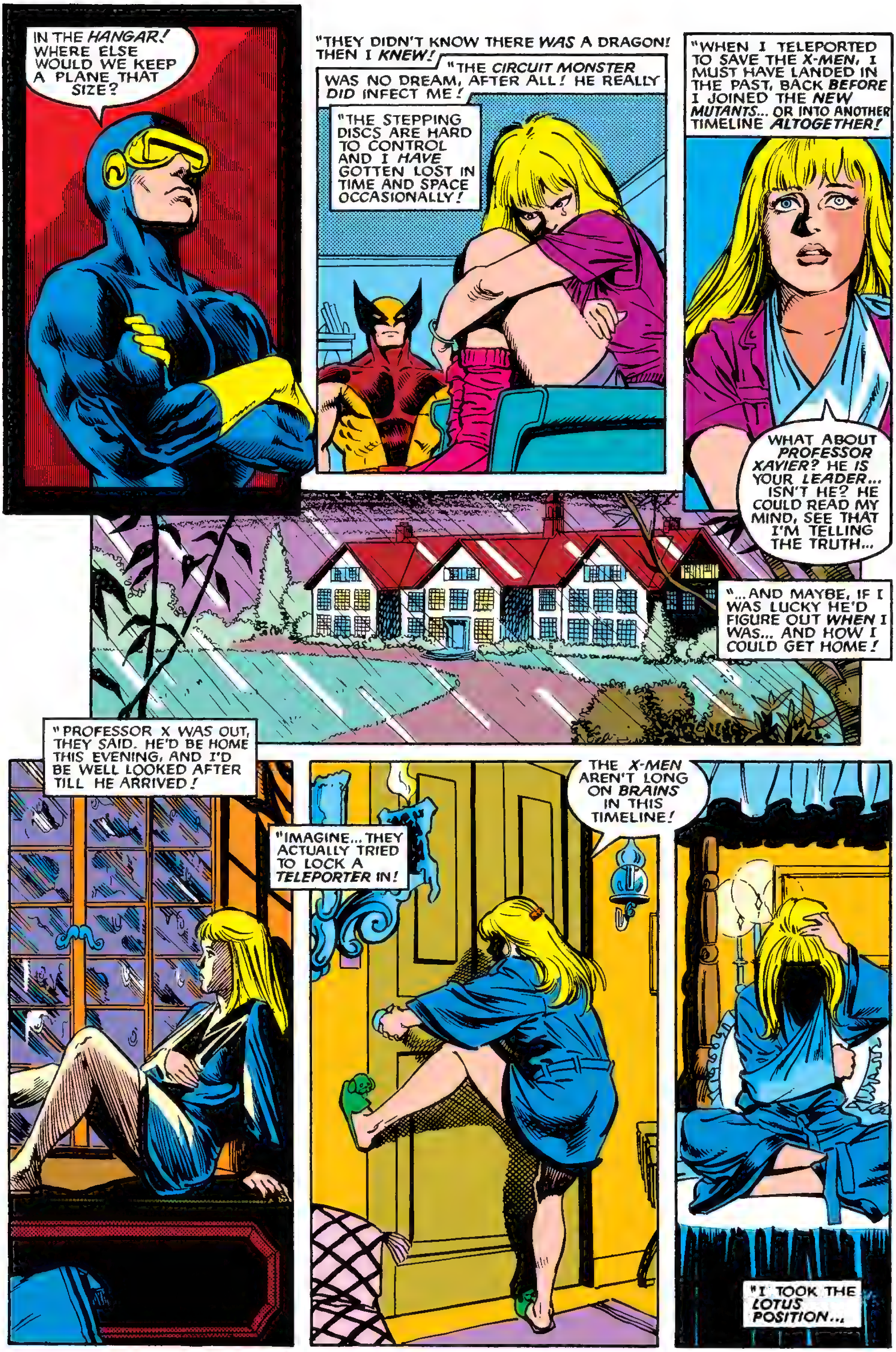

"THE FIRST THING I LEARNED AS A KID TRAPPED IN LIMBO WAS NOT TO TRUST *ANYBODY!*
"THE *SECOND* THING WAS *ESPECIALLY* NOT TO TRUST *DEMONS!*
YOU *AWAY* LONG TIME, MISTRESS *ILLYANA!* AWAY FROM *LIMBO*-- HOME OF *DEMONS!*
YOU LITTLE ***HUMAN*** GIRL! YOU NOT ***BELONG*** HERE!
"IN ALL THE DIFFERENT ***REALITIES*** I'D TRAVELLED TO--***LIMBO***... THE ***EARTH***... SEVERAL POSSIBLE ***FUTURES***--
"--THE X-MEN ***DIED.*** IN SOME, I KILLED THEM. IN SOME, I COULDN'T SAVE THEM. THE RESULT WAS THE SAME.
"IT WASN'T ***FAIR!*** I'D SOONER CUT OFF MY ***RIGHT ARM*** THAN HURT THEM."
I DO BELONG HERE! I PAID FOR THE RIGHT IN ***BLOOD!*** WITH MY ***OWN*** BLOOD AND THE BLOOD OF THOSE THAT I HOLD DEAR!
THE ***X-MEN*** WERE ***SLAIN*** IN THIS REALITY! SOME ***DIED*** BECAUSE I WAS HELPLESS TO STOP IT! SOME DIED BY MY ***HAND!***
HOW DARE YOU!
Redemption

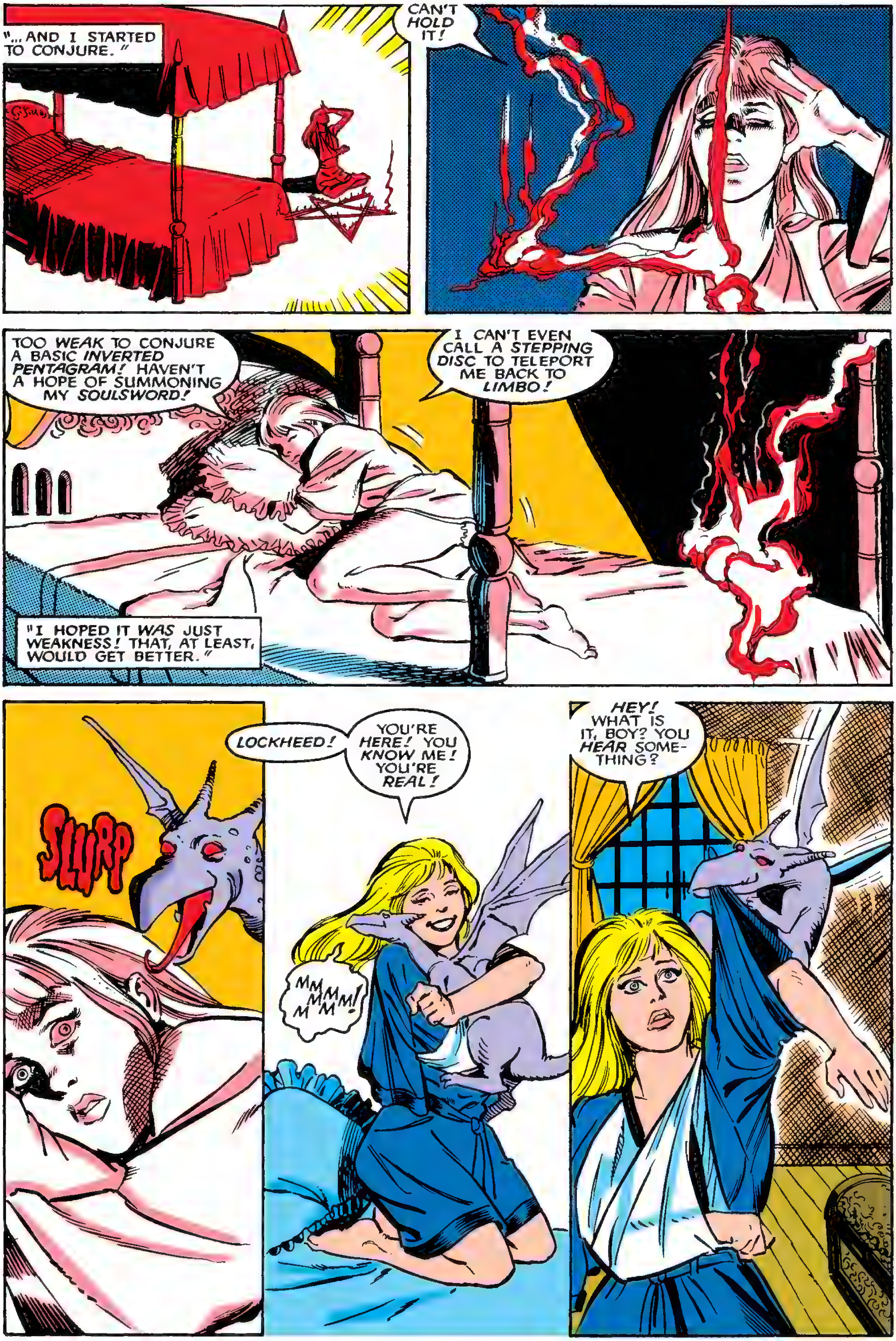
CHRIS CLAREMONT PLOT | LOUISE SIMONSON SCRIPT | BO HAMPTON & JOE RUBINSTEIN ARTISTS | TOM ORZECHOWSKI LETTERER | NEL YOMTOV COLORIST | ANN NOCENTI EDITOR | TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

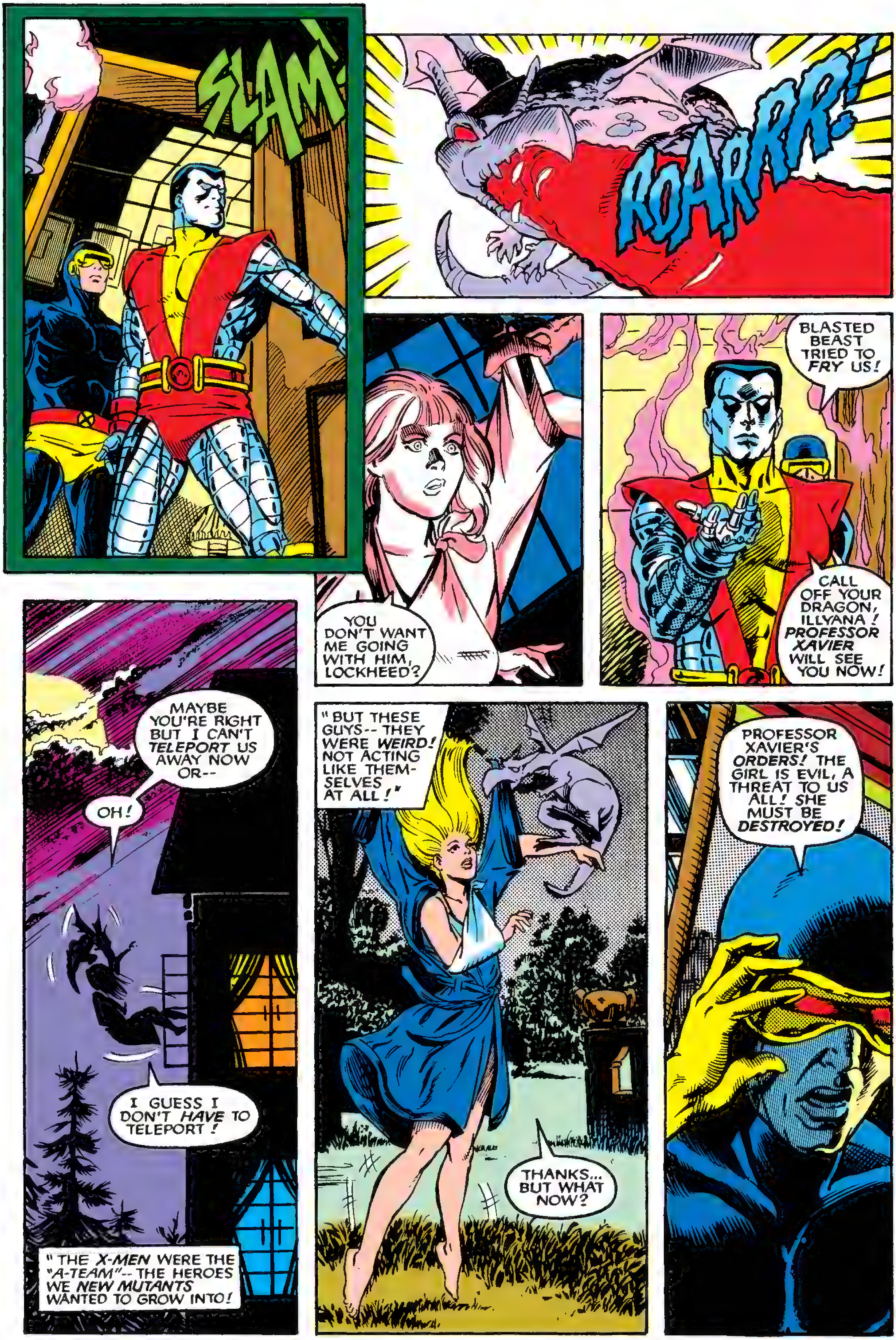

HA! SKUNGE CRUSH YOU!
THEN SKUNGE RULE DEMON-LAND ALONE!
"I COULD'VE TELEPORTED OUT OF HIS REACH, BUT WHY BOTHER?
"I WAS FRAMING THE WORDS OF THE SPELL THAT WOULD TURN HIM INTO A SLUG WHEN HE CLOSED HIS HAND OVER ME AND--"
EEEYAAA!
MISTRESS, WHAT YOU DO TO POOR, LOYAL SKUNGE...?
"AND THEN I FREAKED, BIG TIME! HE'D BARELY BRUSHED ME... I SWEAR HE HAD...
"...BUT IN MERE SECONDS HE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A METALLIC, SHAMBLING THING!
"I WAS GETTING SCARED! THAT STUFF WAS HALFWAY TO MY SHOULDER NOW!
"MY ARMOR WAS GLOWING LIKE MAD! I FIGURED SOMETHING IN IT MUST BE PROTECTING ME, BLUNTING THE INFECTION...
"...WHICH MEANT THAT MAYBE... JUST MAYBE... THESE CIRCUITS AND GEARS WERE VULNERABLE TO MAGIC!"
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, LOCKHEED! IT'S BETTER TO LOSE AN ARM THAN BE TURNED INTO A ROBOT MONSTER!

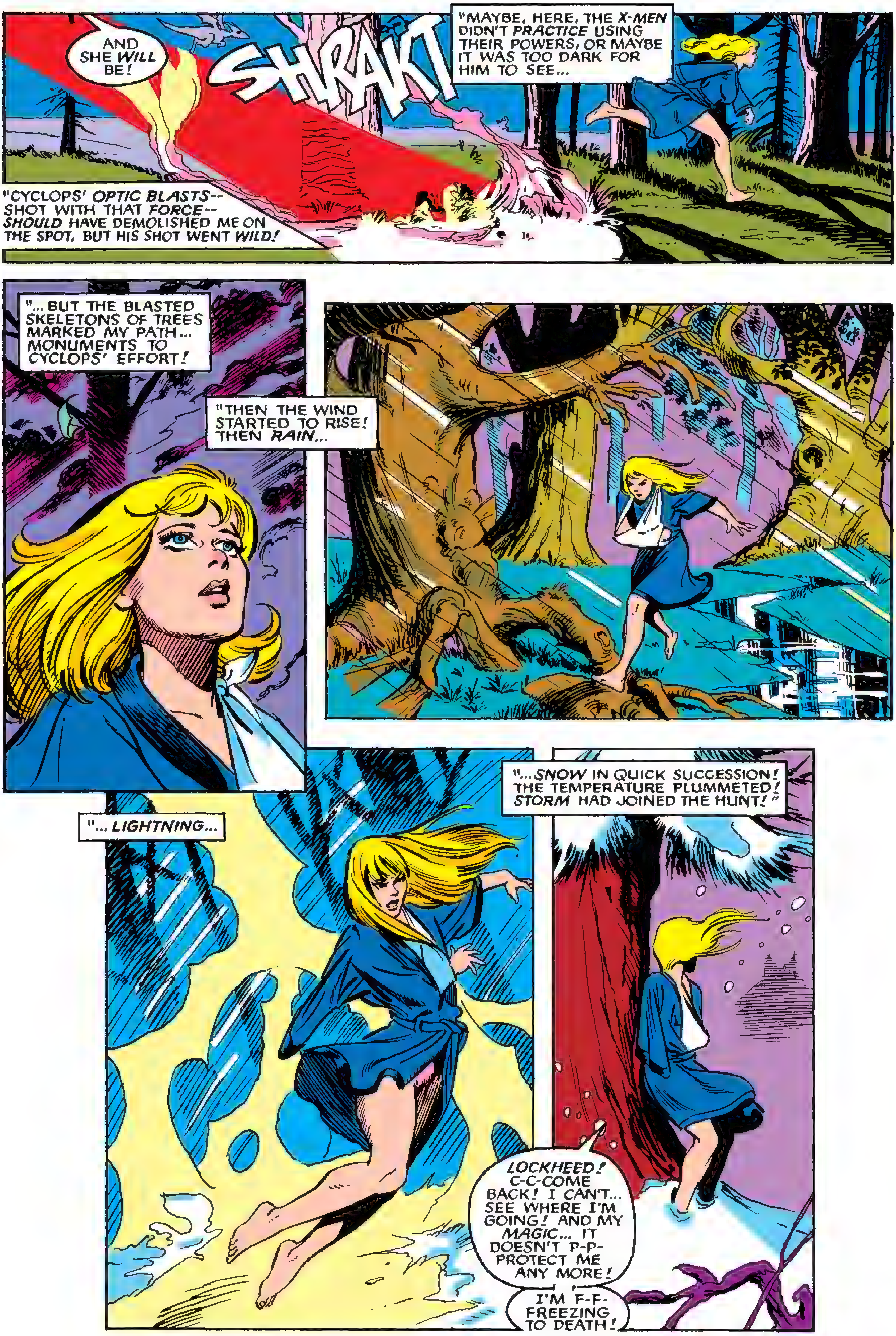

"AS I RAISED MY ARM, MY *SOULSWORD* LEAPT, GLEAMING, INTO MY ARMORED HAND!
WELL, LOCKHEED, THIS IS *IT!*
SWISSS!
"I WOKE UP BACK AT THE SCHOOL, SPRAWLED ACROSS *YOUR* BED! I WAS IN MY NIGHTSHIRT! NO ARMOR, NO SWORD..."
CAN'T... BLACK OUT! GOTTA 'PORT! MONSTER AFTER NEW MUTANTS... X-MEN! LOST THEM... ONCE...
GOTTA SAVE... X-MEN...
"IT WAS ALL A *DREAM*, I THOUGHT, AND PETER'S ALIVE... AND DOUG AND STORM AND WOLVERINE!"
OOH... MY *HEAD!* MAN, THAT WAS SOME *NIGHTMARE!*
MY HAND! NO GEARS OR CIRCUITS! THANK HEAVEN! *NUMB*, THOUGH!
MUST'VE SLEPT ON IT FUNNY! DREAM PROBABLY CAME FROM *THAT!*
HEY... THAT T.V.! IT'S WHERE MY *BED* USED TO BE! AND MY *BED*... IT'S *GONE!*
U-2
NO CLOTHES IN THE CLOSET... AT LEAST NONE OF *MINE!*
BUT PRYDE'S IN *SCOTLAND*... *IF* IT WAS A DREAM! WHY--?

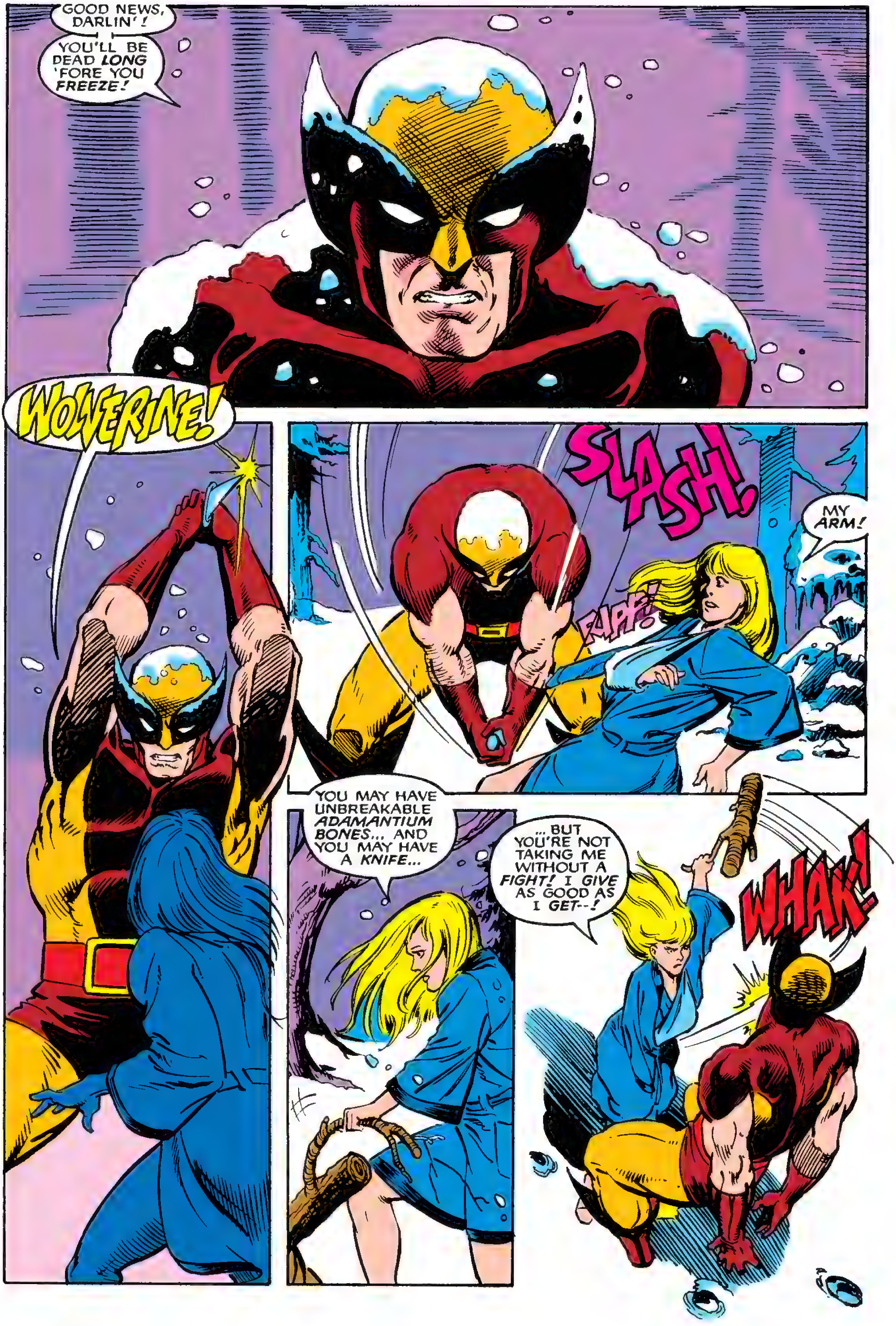

OH, I GET IT! VERY-- HA! HA! -- FUNNY! ONE OF MY DOPEY TEAMMATE'S IDEA OF A SICK JOKE! PROBABLY BOBBY -- THE JERK!
ARM'S STILL NUMB! I'LL PUT IT IN A SLING AND, THEN, JERK...
...I'M GONNA GET SOME ANSWERS!
ANSWERS...? TO WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?
"AT YOUR SCREAM, THE X-MEN CAME RUNNING! ONLY... THEY WEREN'T THE WAY I'D LEFT THEM! NONE OF YOU WERE!
"YOU AND STORM AND MY BROTHER WERE WEARING YOUR OLD COSTUMES! AND CYCLOPS WAS STILL THE X-MEN'S LEADER!
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M ILLYANA RASPUTIN, PETER'S LITTLE SISTER! DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
LOOK, I LIVE HERE! I SHARE THIS ROOM WITH KITTY! SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND AND...
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE! WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO TAKE MY THINGS? GET THEM OFF, NOW!
Uh... WHERE'S LOCKHEED?

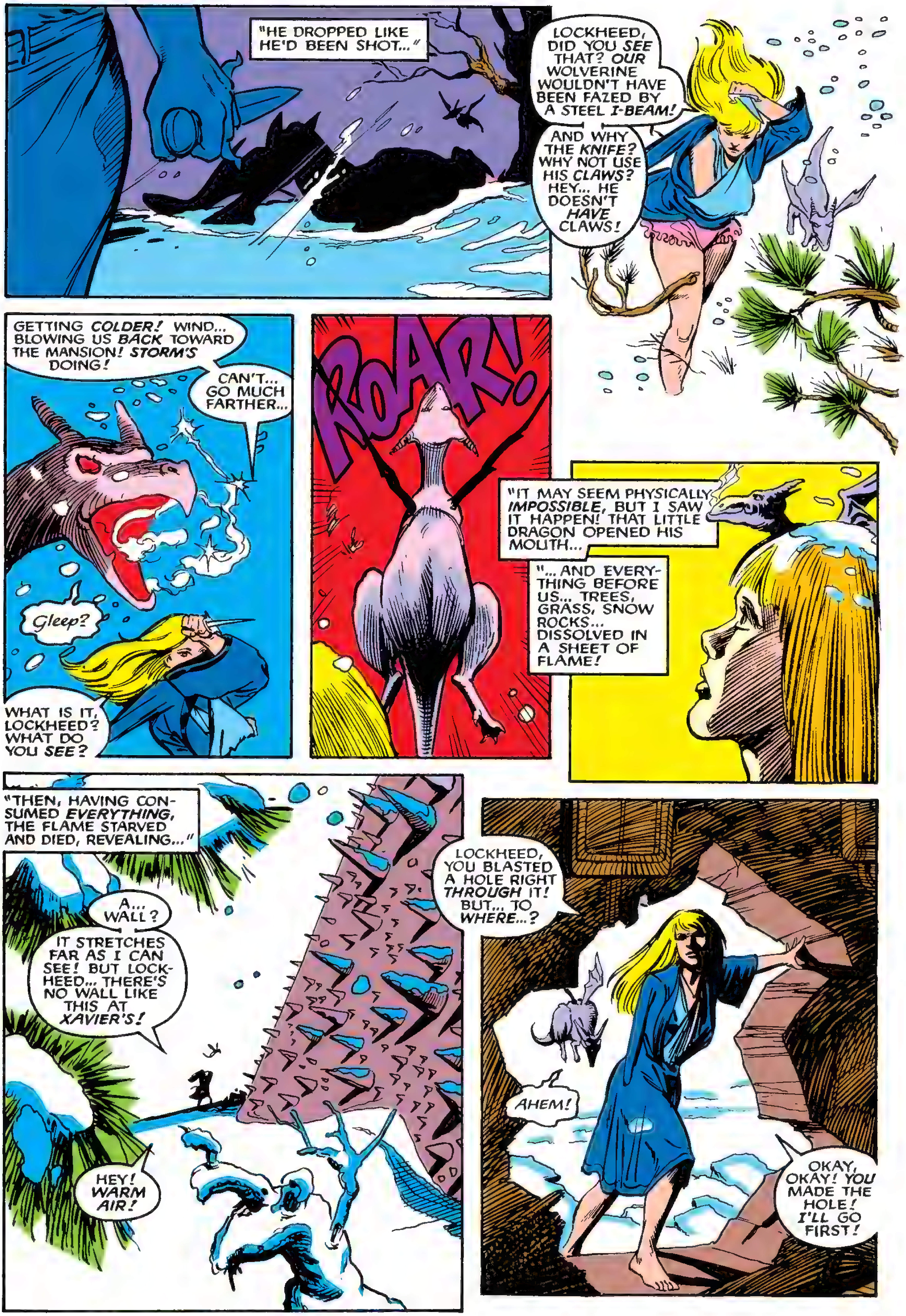

IN THE *HANGAR!* WHERE ELSE WOULD WE KEEP A PLANE THAT SIZE?
"THEY DIDN'T KNOW THERE *WAS* A DRAGON! THEN I *KNEW!*
"THE *CIRCUIT MONSTER* WAS NO DREAM, AFTER ALL! HE REALLY *DID* INFECT ME!
"THE STEPPING DISCS ARE HARD TO CONTROL AND I *HAVE* GOTTEN LOST IN TIME AND SPACE OCCASIONALLY!
"WHEN I TELEPORTED TO SAVE THE *X-MEN,* I MUST HAVE LANDED IN THE PAST, BACK *BEFORE* I JOINED THE *NEW MUTANTS*... OR INTO ANOTHER TIMELINE *ALTOGETHER!*
WHAT ABOUT *PROFESSOR XAVIER?* HE *IS* YOUR *LEADER*... ISN'T HE? HE COULD READ MY MIND, SEE THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH...
"...AND MAYBE, IF I WAS LUCKY HE'D FIGURE OUT *WHEN* I WAS... AND HOW I COULD GET HOME!
"PROFESSOR X WAS OUT, THEY SAID. HE'D BE HOME THIS EVENING, AND I'D BE WELL LOOKED AFTER TILL HE ARRIVED!
"IMAGINE... THEY ACTUALLY TRIED TO LOCK A *TELEPORTER* IN!
THE *X-MEN* AREN'T LONG ON *BRAINS* IN THIS TIMELINE!
"I TOOK THE *LOTUS POSITION*...

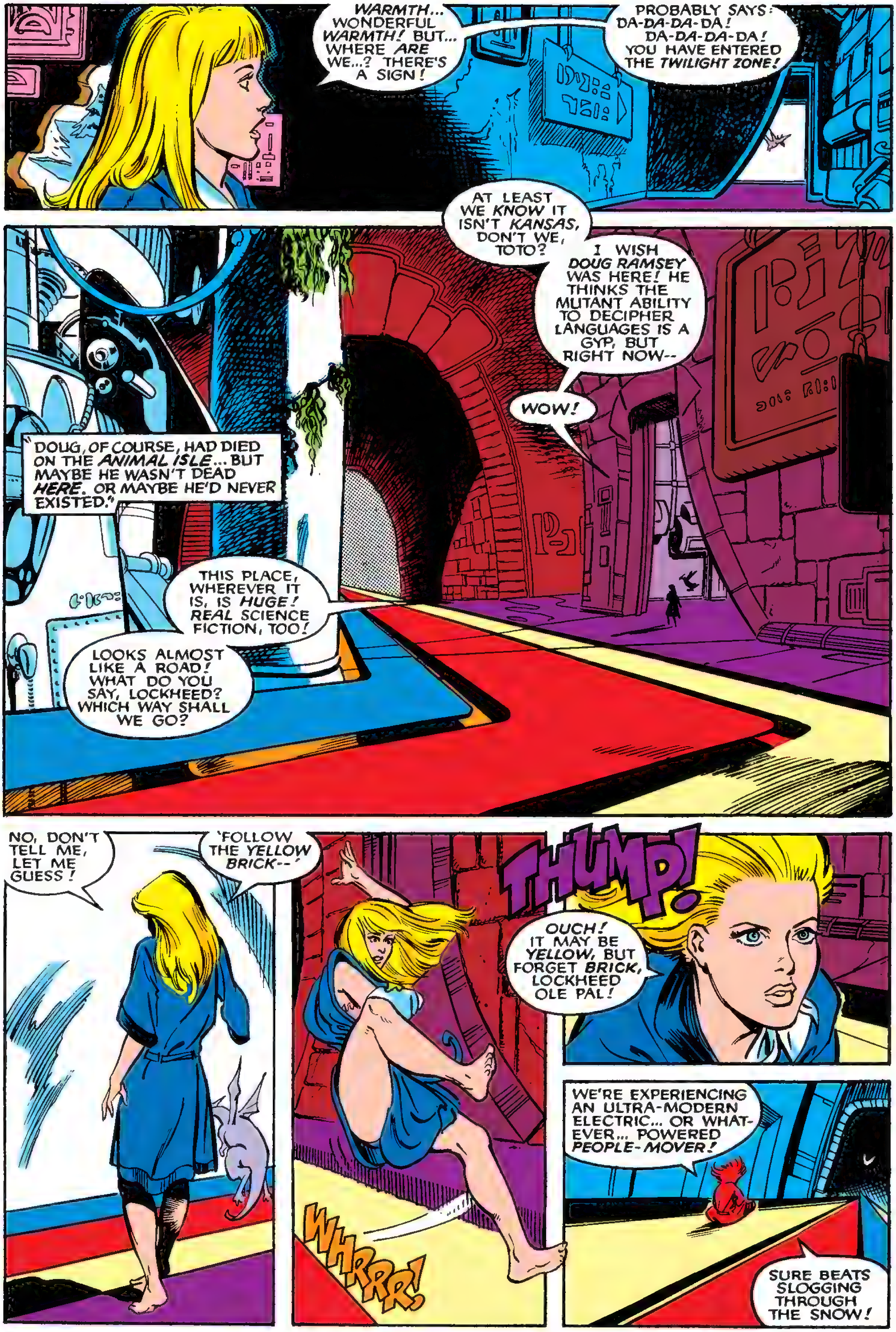

"...AND I STARTED TO CONJURE."
CAN'T HOLD IT!
TOO *WEAK* TO CONJURE A BASIC *INVERTED PENTAGRAM!* HAVEN'T A HOPE OF SUMMONING MY *SOULSWORD!*
I CAN'T EVEN CALL A *STEPPING DISC* TO TELEPORT ME BACK TO *LIMBO!*
"I HOPED IT *WAS* JUST WEAKNESS! THAT, AT LEAST, WOULD GET BETTER."
SLURP
LOCKHEED!
YOU'RE *HERE!* YOU *KNOW ME!* YOU'RE *REAL!*
MMMMM!
HEY! WHAT IS IT, BOY? YOU *HEAR* SOMETHING?

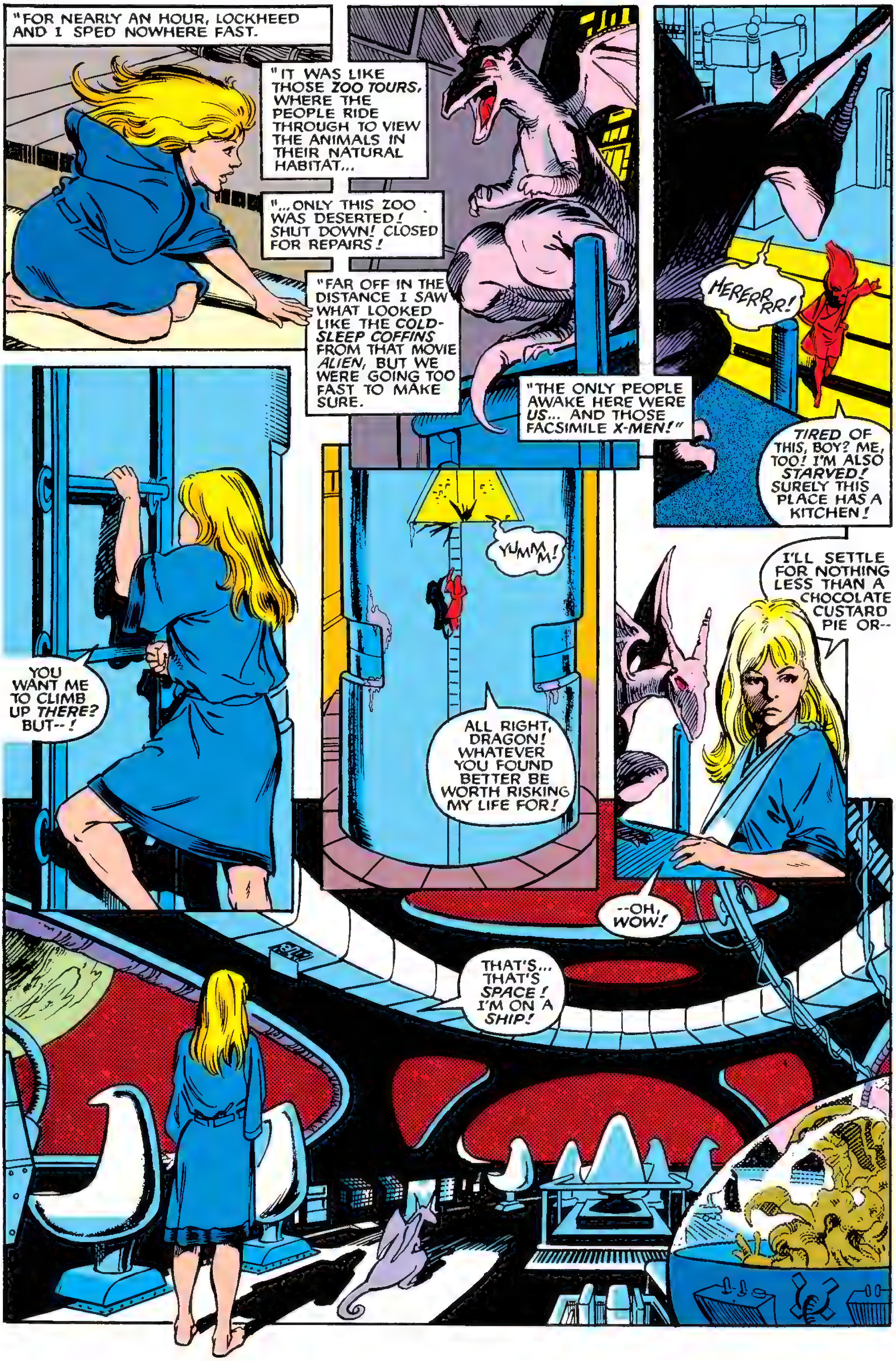

SLAM!
ROARRR!
YOU DON'T WANT ME GOING WITH HIM, LOCKHEED?
BLASTED BEAST TRIED TO *FRY* US!
CALL OFF YOUR DRAGON, ILLYANA! *PROFESSOR XAVIER* WILL SEE YOU NOW!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT BUT I CAN'T *TELEPORT* US AWAY NOW OR--
OH!
I GUESS I DON'T *HAVE* TO TELEPORT!
"THE *X-MEN* WERE THE *"A-TEAM"*-- THE HEROES WE *NEW MUTANTS* WANTED TO GROW INTO!
"BUT THESE GUYS-- THEY WERE *WEIRD!* NOT ACTING LIKE THEMSELVES AT *ALL!*"
THANKS... BUT WHAT NOW?
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S *ORDERS!* THE GIRL IS EVIL, A THREAT TO US ALL! SHE MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

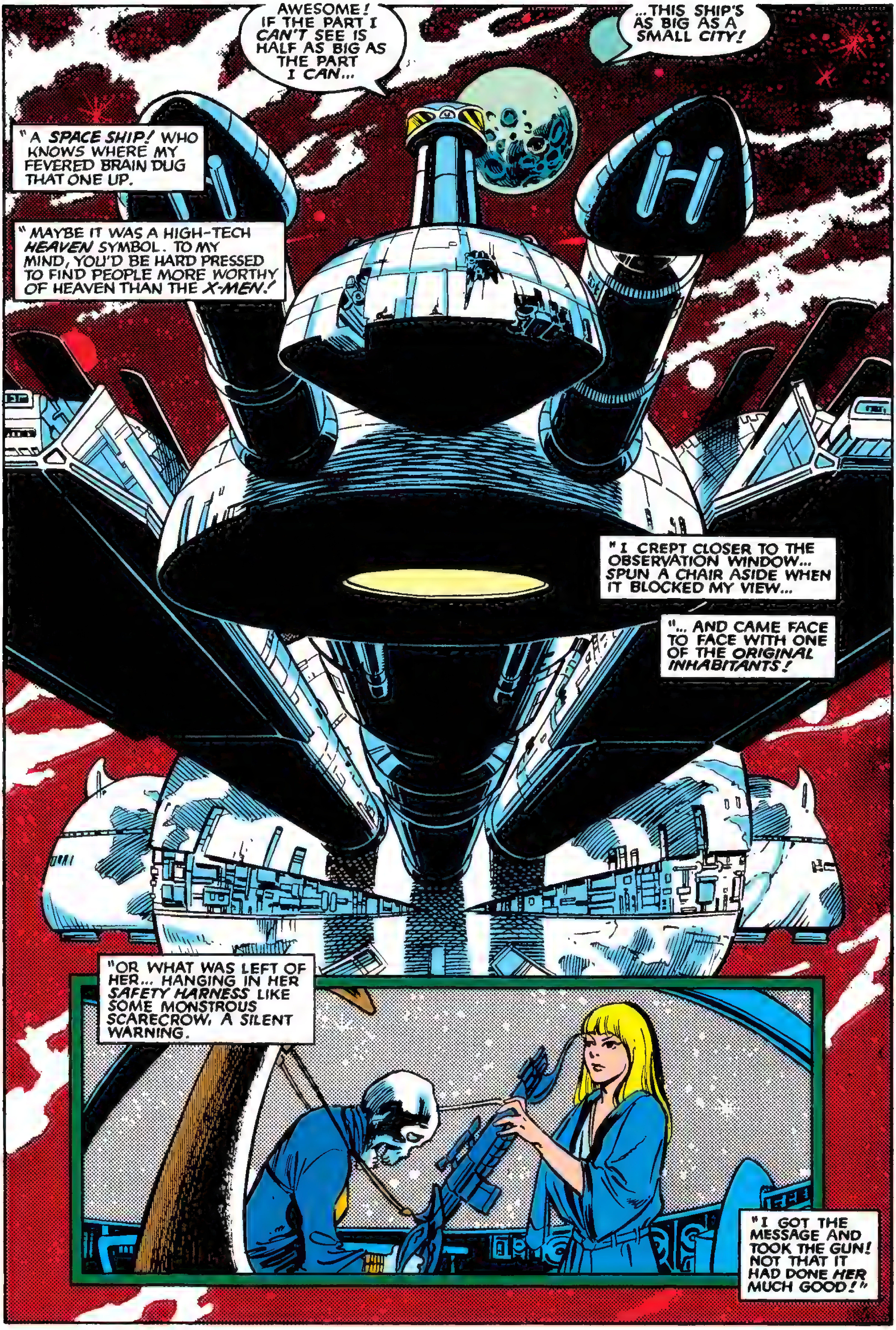

AND SHE *WILL* BE!
SHRAKT
"MAYBE, HERE, THE *X-MEN* DIDN'T *PRACTICE* USING THEIR POWERS, OR MAYBE IT WAS TOO DARK FOR HIM TO SEE...
"CYCLOPS' *OPTIC BLASTS*--SHOT WITH THAT *FORCE*--*SHOULD* HAVE DEMOLISHED ME ON THE SPOT, BUT HIS SHOT WENT *WILD!*
"...BUT THE BLASTED SKELETONS OF TREES MARKED MY PATH... MONUMENTS TO CYCLOPS' EFFORT!
"THEN THE WIND STARTED TO RISE! THEN *RAIN*...
"... *LIGHTNING*...
"...*SNOW* IN QUICK SUCCESSION! THE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETED! *STORM* HAD JOINED THE HUNT!"
LOCKHEED! C-C-COME BACK! I CAN'T... SEE WHERE I'M GOING! AND MY *MAGIC*... IT DOESN'T P-P-PROTECT ME ANY MORE!
I'M F-F-FREEZING TO DEATH!

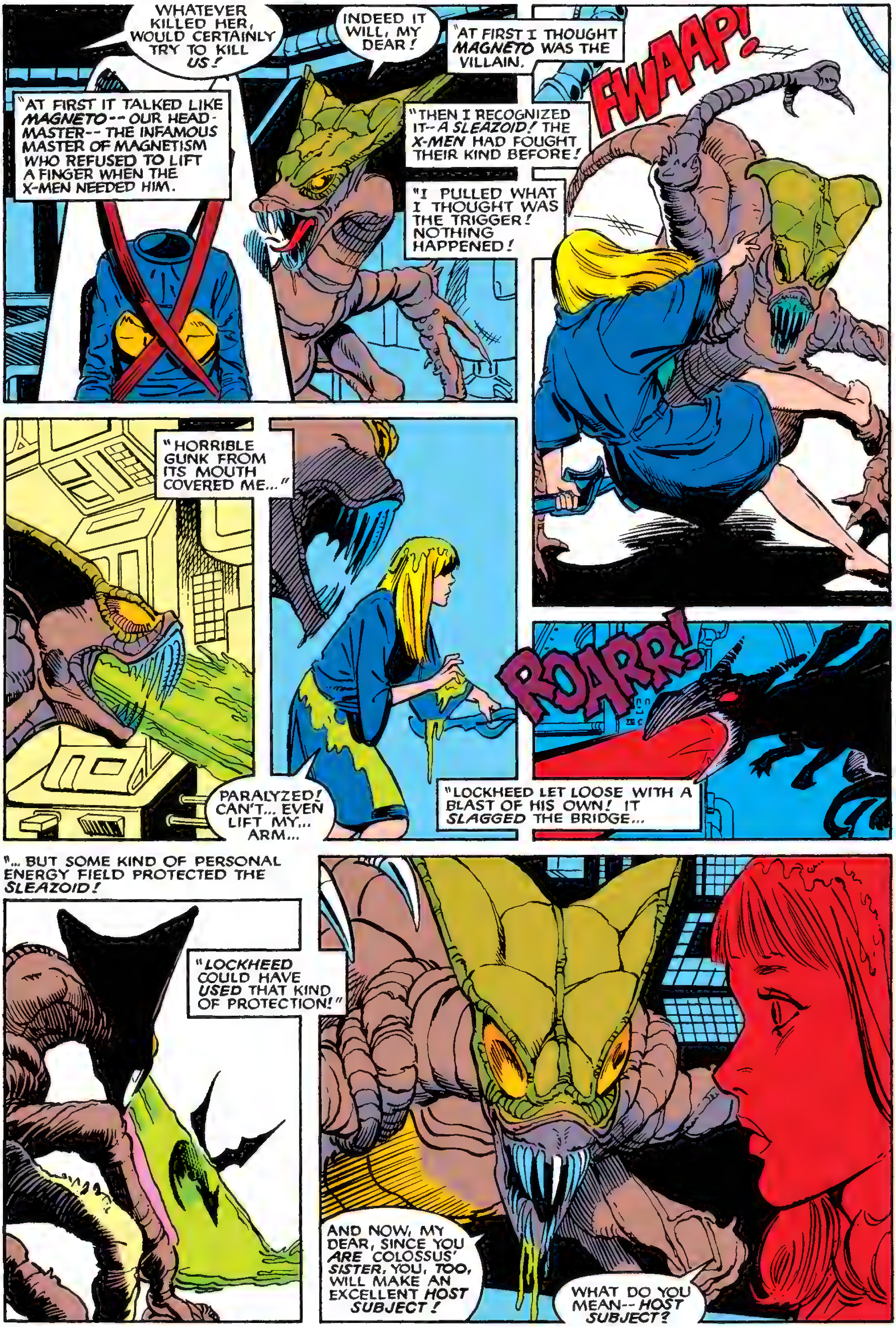

GOOD NEWS, DARLIN'!
YOU'LL BE DEAD LONG 'FORE YOU FREEZE!
WOLVERINE!
SLASH!
MY ARM!
FAPP!
YOU MAY HAVE UNBREAKABLE ADAMANTIUM BONES... AND YOU MAY HAVE A KNIFE...
... BUT YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME WITHOUT A FIGHT! I GIVE AS GOOD AS I GET--!
WHAK!

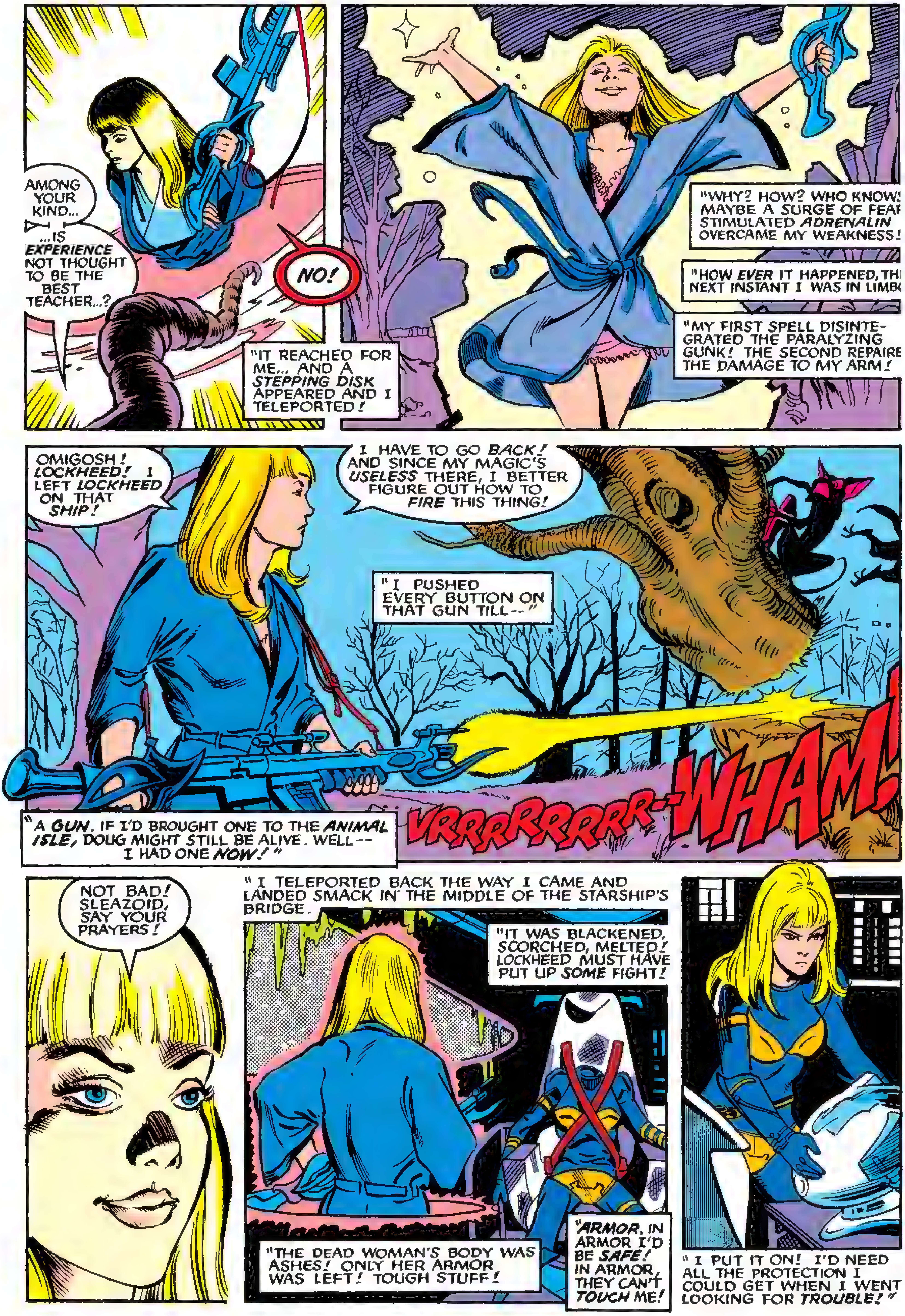

"HE DROPPED LIKE HE'D BEEN SHOT..."
LOCKHEED, DID YOU *SEE* THAT? *OUR* WOLVERINE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAZED BY A STEEL *I-BEAM!*
AND WHY THE *KNIFE?* WHY NOT USE HIS *CLAWS?* HEY... HE DOESN'T *HAVE* CLAWS!
GETTING *COLDER!* WIND... BLOWING US *BACK* TOWARD THE MANSION! *STORM'S* DOING!
CAN'T... GO MUCH FARTHER...
Gleep?
WHAT IS IT, LOCKHEED? WHAT DO YOU *SEE?*
ROAR!
"IT MAY SEEM PHYSICALLY *IMPOSSIBLE,* BUT I SAW IT HAPPEN! THAT LITTLE DRAGON OPENED HIS MOUTH...
"... AND EVERYTHING BEFORE US... TREES, GRASS, SNOW ROCKS... DISSOLVED IN A SHEET OF FLAME!
"THEN, HAVING CONSUMED *EVERYTHING,* THE FLAME STARVED AND DIED, REVEALING..."
A... WALL?
IT STRETCHES FAR AS I CAN SEE! BUT LOCKHEED... THERE'S NO WALL LIKE THIS AT *XAVIER'S!*
HEY! *WARM AIR!*
LOCKHEED, YOU BLASTED A HOLE RIGHT *THROUGH* IT! BUT... TO *WHERE...?*
AHEM!
OKAY, OKAY! *YOU* MADE THE HOLE! *I'LL* GO FIRST!

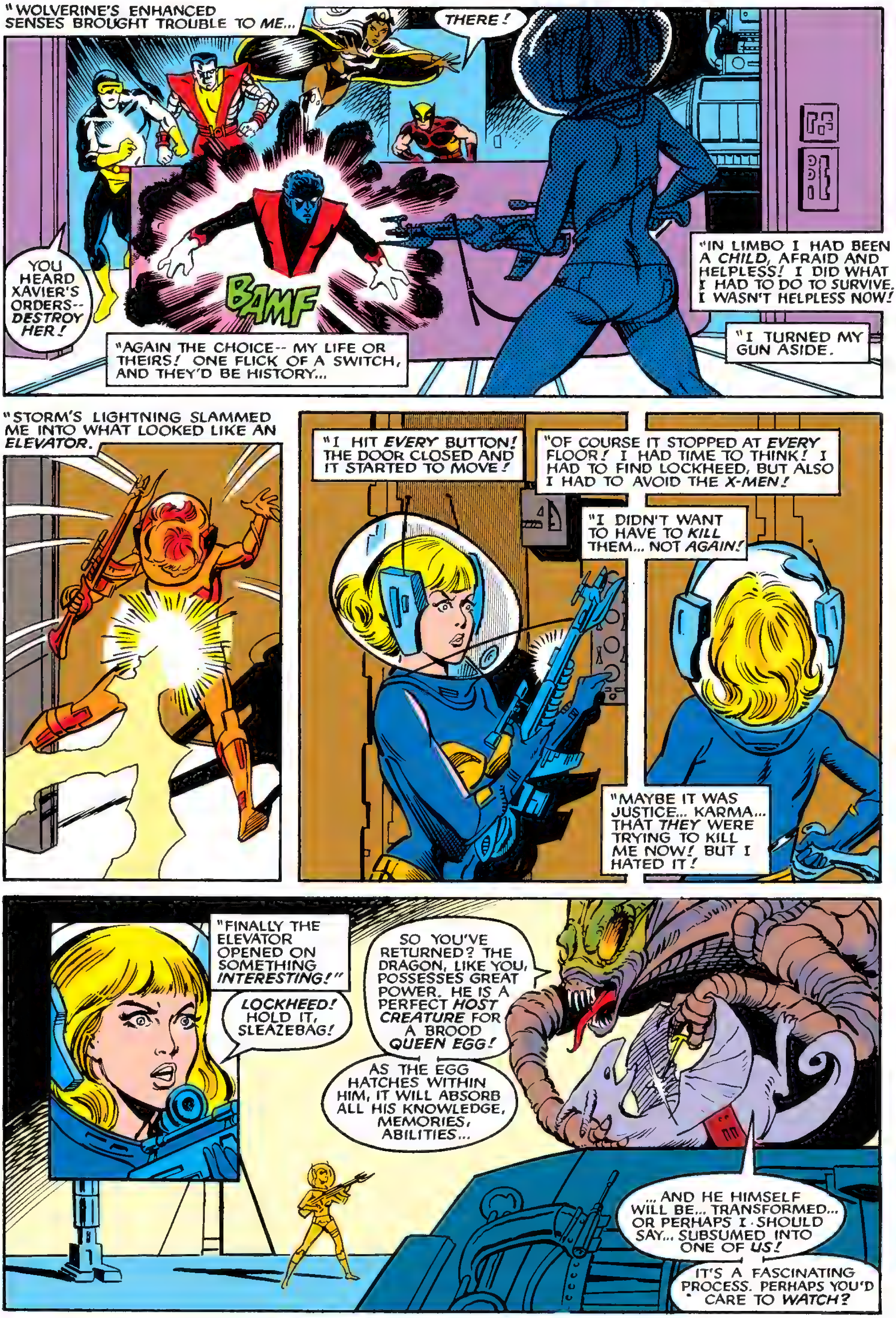

WARMTH... WONDERFUL *WARMTH!* BUT... WHERE *ARE* WE...? THERE'S A SIGN!
PROBABLY SAYS: DA-*DA*-DA-DA! DA-*DA*-DA-DA! YOU HAVE ENTERED THE *TWILIGHT ZONE!*
AT LEAST WE *KNOW* IT ISN'T *KANSAS,* DON'T WE, TOTO?
I WISH *DOUG RAMSEY* WAS HERE! HE THINKS THE MUTANT ABILITY TO DECIPHER LANGUAGES IS A GYP, BUT RIGHT NOW--
WOW!
"DOUG, OF COURSE, HAD DIED ON THE *ANIMAL ISLE*... BUT MAYBE HE WASN'T DEAD *HERE.* OR MAYBE HE'D NEVER EXISTED."
THIS PLACE, WHEREVER IT IS, IS *HUGE! REAL* SCIENCE FICTION, TOO!
LOOKS ALMOST LIKE A ROAD! WHAT DO YOU SAY, LOCKHEED? WHICH WAY SHALL WE GO?
NO, DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS!
'FOLLOW THE *YELLOW* BRICK--'
THUMP!
WHRRRR!
OUCH! IT MAY BE *YELLOW,* BUT FORGET *BRICK,* LOCKHEED OLE PAL!
WE'RE EXPERIENCING AN ULTRA-MODERN ELECTRIC... OR WHAT-EVER... POWERED *PEOPLE-MOVER!*
SURE BEATS SLOGGING THROUGH THE SNOW!

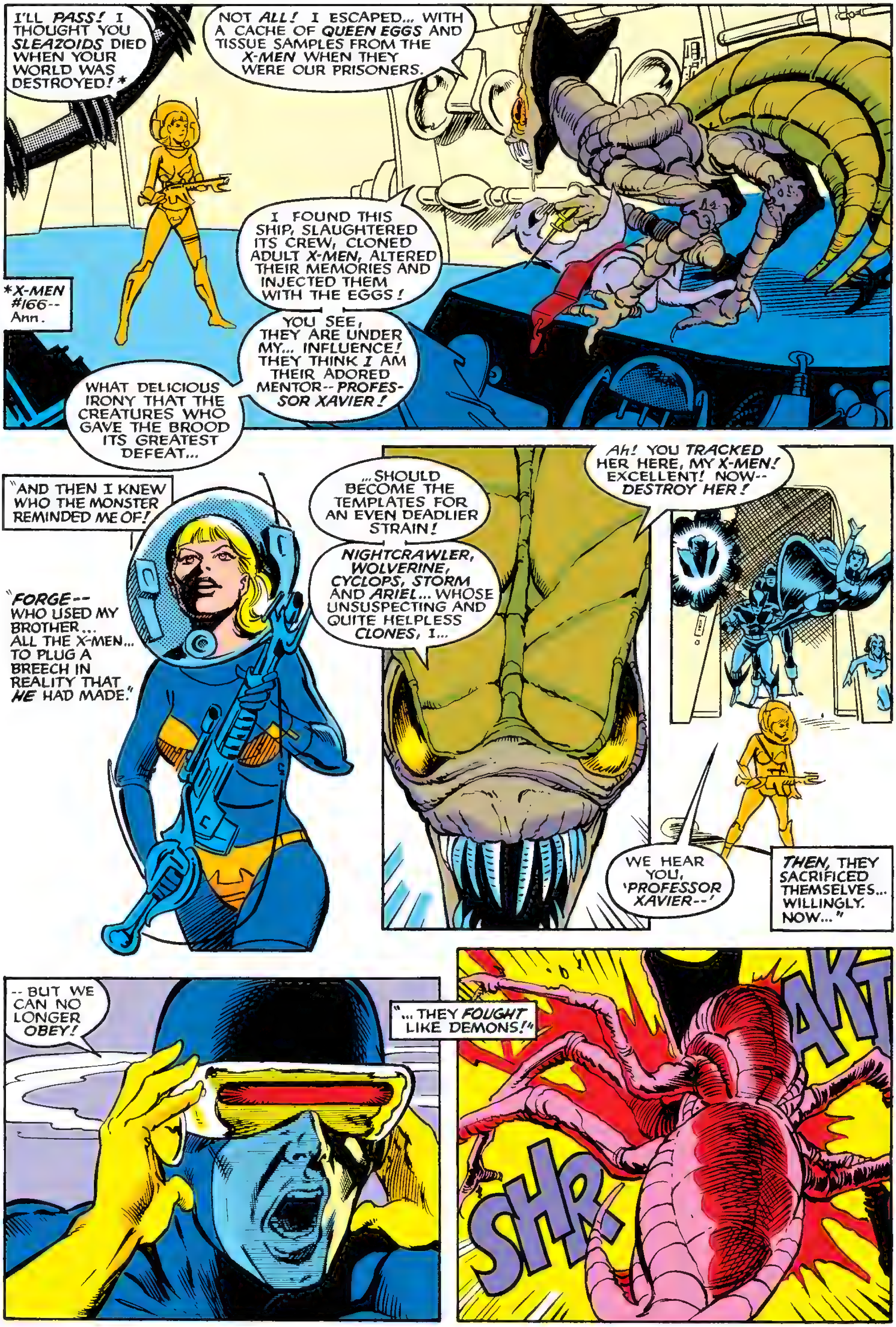

"FOR NEARLY AN HOUR, LOCKHEED AND I SPED NOWHERE FAST.
"IT WAS LIKE THOSE *ZOO TOURS,* WHERE THE PEOPLE RIDE THROUGH TO VIEW THE ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT...
"...ONLY THIS ZOO WAS DESERTED! SHUT DOWN! CLOSED FOR REPAIRS!
"FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE *COLD-SLEEP COFFINS* FROM THAT MOVIE *ALIEN,* BUT WE WERE GOING TOO FAST TO MAKE SURE.
"THE ONLY PEOPLE AWAKE HERE WERE *US*... AND THOSE FACSIMILE *X-MEN!*"
HERERRRR!
TIRED OF THIS, BOY? ME, TOO! I'M ALSO *STARVED!* SURELY THIS PLACE HAS A KITCHEN!
YOU WANT ME TO CLIMB UP *THERE?* BUT--!
YUMMM!
ALL RIGHT, DRAGON! WHATEVER YOU FOUND BETTER BE WORTH RISKING MY LIFE FOR!
I'LL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN A CHOCOLATE CUSTARD PIE OR--
--OH, WOW!
THAT'S... THAT'S *SPACE!* I'M ON A *SHIP!*

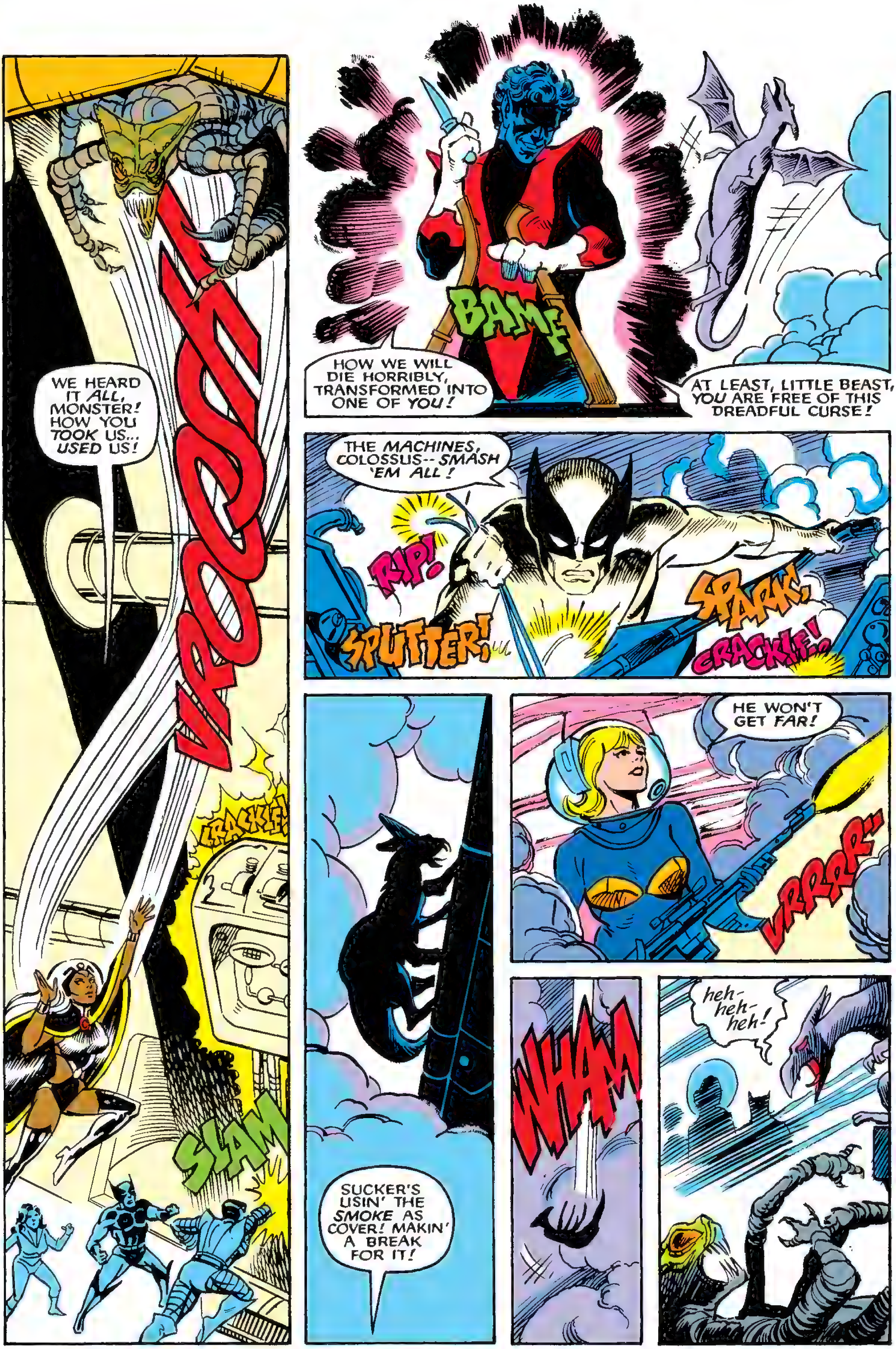

AWESOME! IF THE PART I *CAN'T* SEE IS HALF AS BIG AS THE PART I *CAN*...
...THIS SHIP'S AS BIG AS A SMALL *CITY!*
"A *SPACE SHIP!* WHO KNOWS WHERE MY FEVERED BRAIN DUG THAT ONE UP.
"MAYBE IT WAS A HIGH-TECH *HEAVEN* SYMBOL. TO MY MIND, YOU'D BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND PEOPLE MORE WORTHY OF HEAVEN THAN THE *X-MEN!*
"I CREPT CLOSER TO THE OBSERVATION WINDOW... *SPUN* A CHAIR ASIDE WHEN IT BLOCKED MY VIEW...
"... AND CAME FACE TO FACE WITH ONE OF THE *ORIGINAL INHABITANTS!*
"OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF HER... HANGING IN HER *SAFETY HARNESS* LIKE SOME MONSTROUS SCARECROW. A SILENT WARNING.
"I GOT THE MESSAGE AND TOOK THE GUN! NOT THAT IT HAD DONE *HER* MUCH GOOD!"

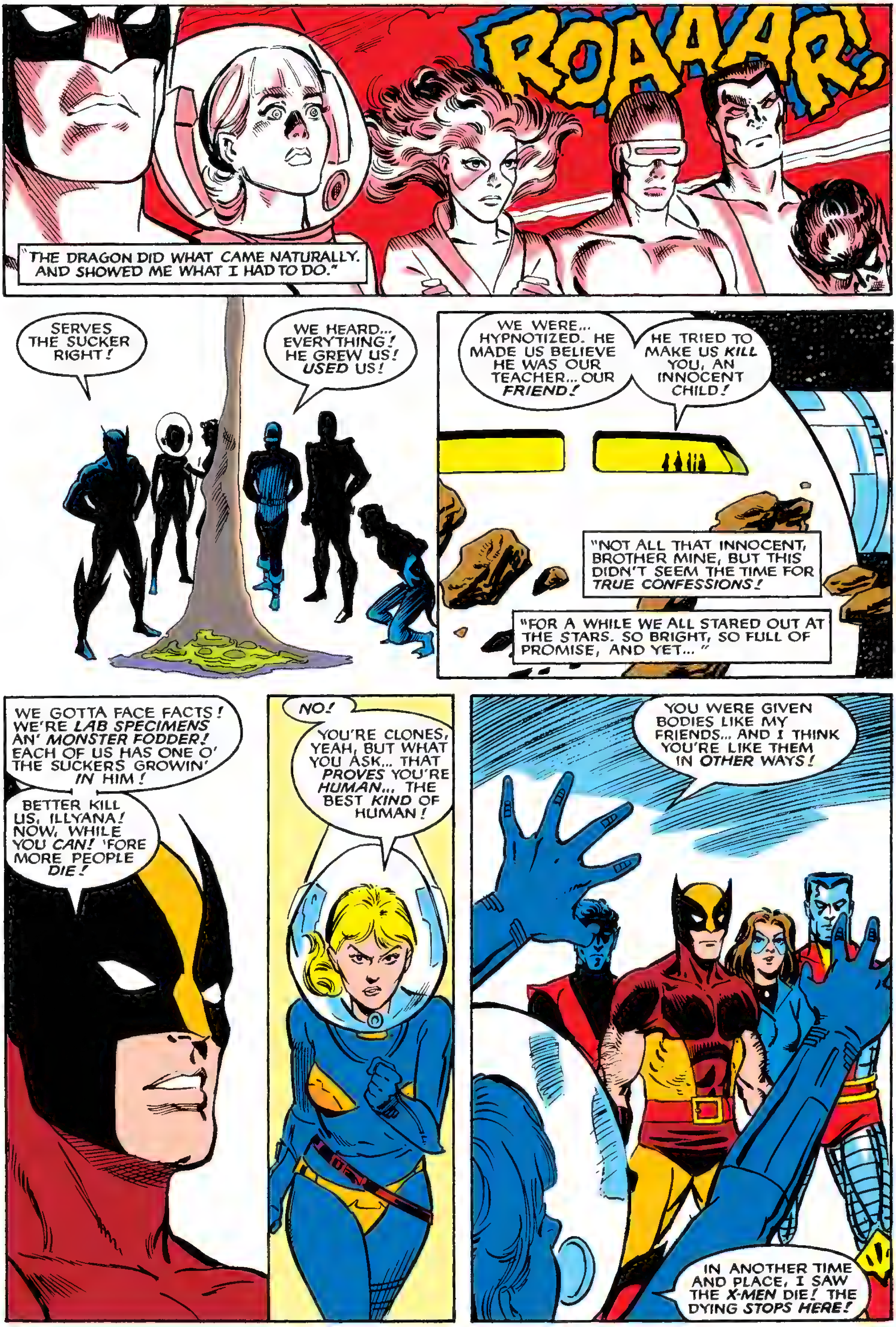

WHATEVER KILLED HER, WOULD CERTAINLY TRY TO KILL *US!*
"AT FIRST IT TALKED LIKE *MAGNETO*-- OUR HEADMASTER-- THE INFAMOUS MASTER OF MAGNETISM WHO REFUSED TO LIFT A FINGER WHEN THE X-MEN NEEDED HIM.
INDEED IT WILL, MY DEAR!
"AT FIRST I THOUGHT *MAGNETO* WAS THE VILLAIN.
"THEN I RECOGNIZED IT-- *A SLEAZOID!* THE *X-MEN* HAD FOUGHT THEIR KIND BEFORE!
"I PULLED WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE TRIGGER! NOTHING HAPPENED!
FWAAP!
"HORRIBLE GUNK FROM ITS MOUTH COVERED ME..."
PARALYZED! CAN'T... EVEN LIFT MY... ARM...
ROARR!
"LOCKHEED LET LOOSE WITH A BLAST OF HIS OWN! IT *SLAGGED* THE BRIDGE...
"... BUT SOME KIND OF PERSONAL ENERGY FIELD PROTECTED THE *SLEAZOID!*
"*LOCKHEED* COULD HAVE *USED* THAT KIND OF PROTECTION!"
AND NOW, MY DEAR, SINCE YOU *ARE* COLOSSUS' *SISTER*, YOU, *TOO*, WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT *HOST SUBJECT!*
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- *HOST SUBJECT?*

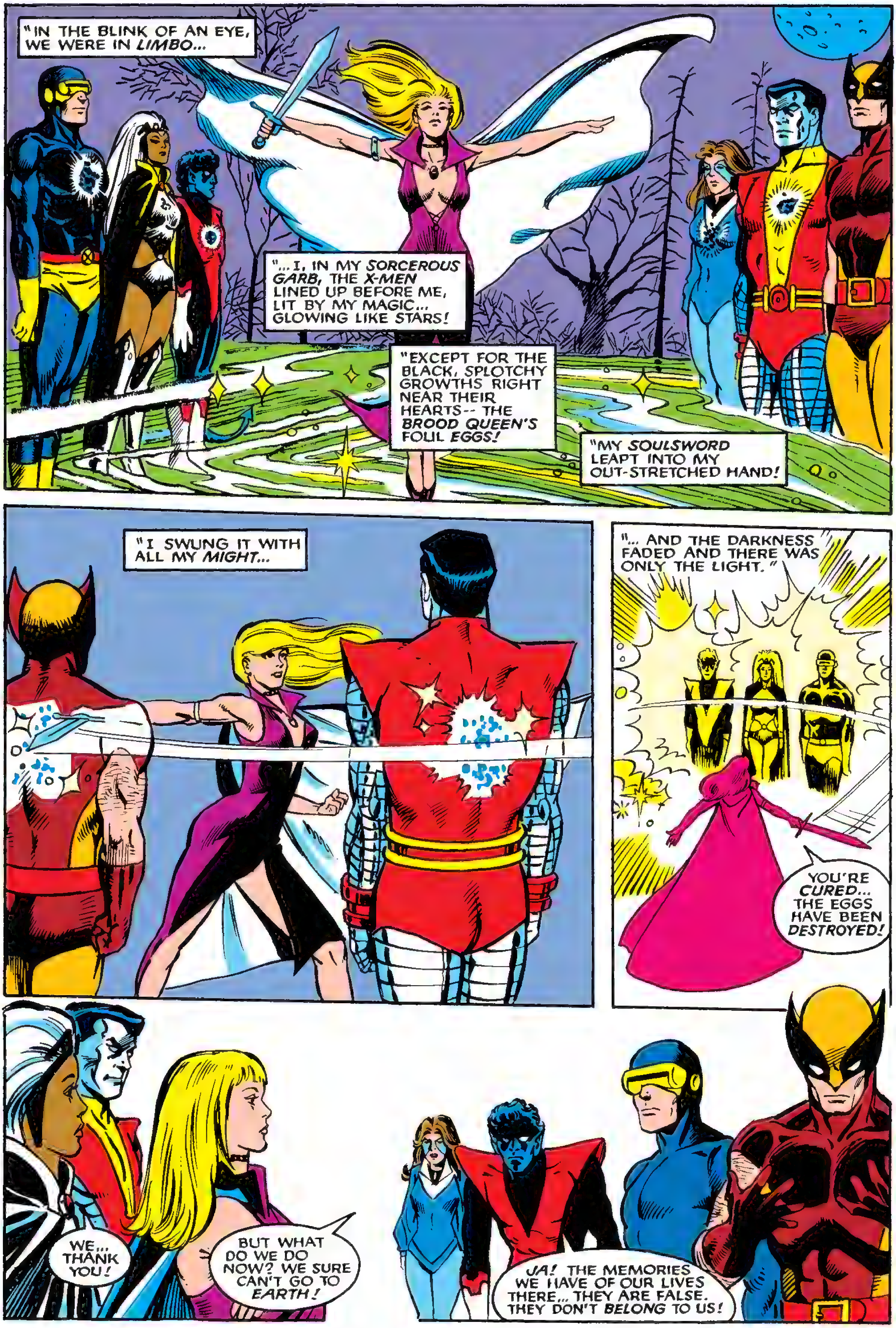

AMONG YOUR KIND... ...IS EXPERIENCE NOT THOUGHT TO BE THE BEST TEACHER...?
NO!
"IT REACHED FOR ME... AND A STEPPING DISK APPEARED AND I TELEPORTED!
"WHY? HOW? WHO KNOWS MAYBE A SURGE OF FEA STIMULATED ADRENALIN OVERCAME MY WEAKNESS!
"HOW EVER IT HAPPENED, TH NEXT INSTANT I WAS IN LIMB
"MY FIRST SPELL DISINTEGRATED THE PARALYZING GUNK! THE SECOND REPAIRE THE DAMAGE TO MY ARM!
OMIGOSH! LOCKHEED! I LEFT LOCKHEED ON THAT SHIP!
I HAVE TO GO BACK! AND SINCE MY MAGIC'S USELESS THERE, I BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIRE THIS THING!
"I PUSHED EVERY BUTTON ON THAT GUN TILL--"
VRRRRRRRRR-WHAM!
"A GUN. IF I'D BROUGHT ONE TO THE ANIMAL ISLE, DOUG MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. WELL-- I HAD ONE NOW!"
NOT BAD! SLEAZOID, SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
"I TELEPORTED BACK THE WAY I CAME AND LANDED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STARSHIP'S BRIDGE.
"IT WAS BLACKENED, SCORCHED, MELTED! LOCKHEED MUST HAVE PUT UP SOME FIGHT!
"THE DEAD WOMAN'S BODY WAS ASHES! ONLY HER ARMOR WAS LEFT! TOUGH STUFF!
"ARMOR. IN ARMOR I'D BE SAFE! IN ARMOR, THEY CAN'T TOUCH ME!
"I PUT IT ON! I'D NEED ALL THE PROTECTION I COULD GET WHEN I WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!"

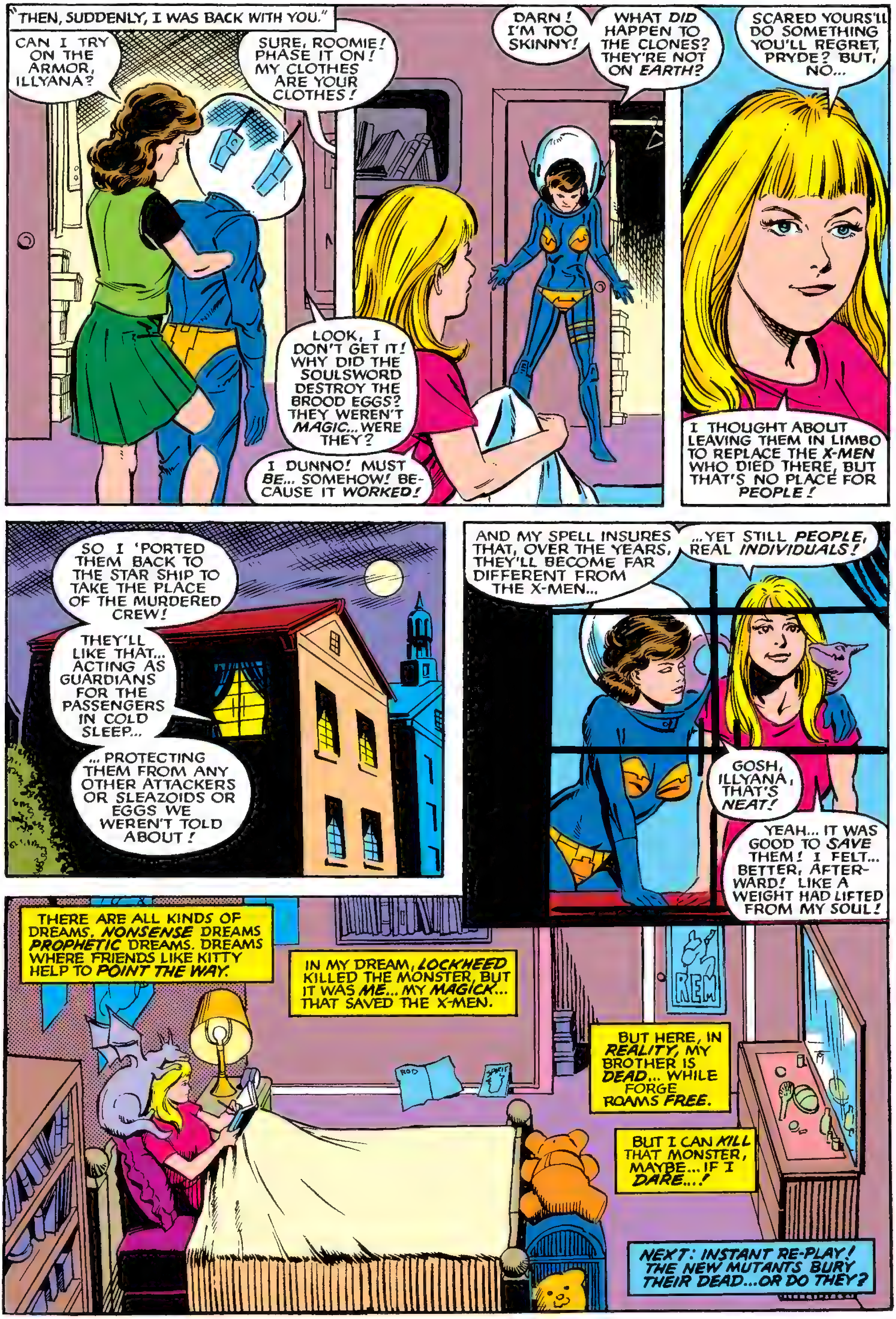

"WOLVERINE'S ENHANCED SENSES BROUGHT TROUBLE TO *ME*...
THERE!
YOU HEARD XAVIER'S ORDERS-- *DESTROY HER!*
BAMF
"AGAIN THE CHOICE-- MY LIFE OR THEIRS! ONE FLICK OF A SWITCH, AND THEY'D BE HISTORY...
"IN LIMBO I HAD BEEN A *CHILD*, AFRAID AND HELPLESS! I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO TO SURVIVE. I WASN'T HELPLESS NOW!
"I TURNED MY GUN ASIDE.
"STORM'S LIGHTNING SLAMMED ME INTO WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN *ELEVATOR*.
"I HIT *EVERY* BUTTON! THE DOOR CLOSED AND IT STARTED TO MOVE!
"OF COURSE IT STOPPED AT *EVERY* FLOOR! I HAD TIME TO THINK! I HAD TO FIND LOCKHEED, BUT ALSO I HAD TO AVOID THE *X-MEN!*
"I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO *KILL* THEM... NOT *AGAIN!*
"MAYBE IT WAS JUSTICE... KARMA... THAT *THEY* WERE TRYING TO KILL ME NOW! BUT I HATED IT!
"FINALLY THE ELEVATOR OPENED ON SOMETHING *INTERESTING!*"
LOCKHEED! HOLD IT, SLEAZEBAG!
SO YOU'VE RETURNED? THE DRAGON, LIKE YOU, POSSESSES GREAT POWER. HE IS A PERFECT *HOST CREATURE* FOR A BROOD *QUEEN EGG!*
AS THE EGG HATCHES WITHIN HIM, IT WILL ABSORB ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE, MEMORIES, ABILITIES...
... AND HE HIMSELF WILL BE... TRANSFORMED... OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY... SUBSUMED INTO ONE OF *US!*
IT'S A FASCINATING PROCESS. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO *WATCH?*


I'LL *PASS!* I THOUGHT YOU *SLEAZOIDS* DIED WHEN YOUR WORLD WAS DESTROYED! *
NOT *ALL!* I ESCAPED... WITH A CACHE OF *QUEEN EGGS* AND TISSUE SAMPLES FROM THE *X-MEN* WHEN THEY WERE OUR PRISONERS.
I FOUND THIS SHIP, SLAUGHTERED ITS CREW, CLONED ADULT *X-MEN,* ALTERED THEIR MEMORIES AND INJECTED THEM WITH THE EGGS!
*X-MEN #166-- Ann.
YOU SEE, THEY ARE UNDER MY... INFLUENCE! THEY THINK *I* AM THEIR ADORED MENTOR-- *PROFESSOR XAVIER!*
WHAT DELICIOUS IRONY THAT THE CREATURES WHO GAVE THE BROOD ITS GREATEST DEFEAT...
"AND THEN I KNEW WHO THE MONSTER REMINDED ME OF!
"*FORGE--* WHO USED MY BROTHER... ALL THE X-MEN... TO PLUG A BREECH IN REALITY THAT *HE* HAD MADE."
...SHOULD BECOME THE TEMPLATES FOR AN EVEN DEADLIER STRAIN!
NIGHTCRAWLER, WOLVERINE, CYCLOPS, STORM AND *ARIEL...* WHOSE UNSUSPECTING AND QUITE HELPLESS *CLONES,* I...
Ah! YOU *TRACKED* HER HERE, MY *X-MEN!* EXCELLENT! NOW-- *DESTROY HER!*
WE HEAR YOU, *'PROFESSOR XAVIER--'*
THEN, THEY SACRIFICED THEMSELVES... WILLINGLY. NOW..."
-- BUT WE CAN NO LONGER *OBEY!*
"...THEY *FOUGHT* LIKE DEMONS!"
AKT
SHR


VROOSH
WE HEARD IT *ALL*, MONSTER! HOW YOU *TOOK* US... *USED* US!
CRACKLE
SLAM
BAMF
HOW WE WILL DIE HORRIBLY, TRANSFORMED INTO ONE OF *YOU*!
AT LEAST, LITTLE BEAST, *YOU* ARE FREE OF THIS DREADFUL CURSE!
THE *MACHINES*, COLOSSUS-- *SMASH* 'EM *ALL*!
RIP!
SPUTTER!
SPARK!
CRACKLE..
SUCKER'S USIN' THE *SMOKE* AS COVER! MAKIN' A BREAK FOR IT!
HE WON'T GET *FAR*!
VRRRR..
WHAM
heh-heh-heh!


ROAAAR!
"THE DRAGON DID WHAT CAME NATURALLY. AND SHOWED ME WHAT I HAD TO DO."
SERVES THE SUCKER RIGHT!
WE HEARD... EVERYTHING! HE GREW US! USED US!
WE WERE... HYPNOTIZED. HE MADE US BELIEVE HE WAS OUR TEACHER... OUR FRIEND!
HE TRIED TO MAKE US KILL YOU, AN INNOCENT CHILD!
"NOT ALL THAT INNOCENT, BROTHER MINE, BUT THIS DIDN'T SEEM THE TIME FOR TRUE CONFESSIONS!
"FOR A WHILE WE ALL STARED OUT AT THE STARS. SO BRIGHT, SO FULL OF PROMISE, AND YET... "
WE GOTTA FACE FACTS! WE'RE LAB SPECIMENS AN' MONSTER FODDER! EACH OF US HAS ONE O' THE SUCKERS GROWIN' IN HIM!
BETTER KILL US, ILLYANA! NOW, WHILE YOU CAN! 'FORE MORE PEOPLE DIE!
NO!
YOU'RE CLONES, YEAH, BUT WHAT YOU ASK... THAT PROVES YOU'RE HUMAN... THE BEST KIND OF HUMAN!
YOU WERE GIVEN BODIES LIKE MY FRIENDS... AND I THINK YOU'RE LIKE THEM IN OTHER WAYS!
IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE, I SAW THE X-MEN DIE! THE DYING STOPS HERE!


"IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WE WERE IN LIMBO...
"...I, IN MY SORCEROUS GARB, THE X-MEN LINED UP BEFORE ME, LIT BY MY MAGIC... GLOWING LIKE STARS!
"EXCEPT FOR THE BLACK, SPLOTCHY GROWTHS RIGHT NEAR THEIR HEARTS-- THE BROOD QUEEN'S FOUL EGGS!
"MY SOULSWORD LEAPT INTO MY OUT-STRETCHED HAND!
"I SWUNG IT WITH ALL MY MIGHT...
"... AND THE DARKNESS FADED AND THERE WAS ONLY THE LIGHT."
YOU'RE CURED... THE EGGS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!
WE... THANK YOU!
BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW? WE SURE CAN'T GO TO EARTH!
JA! THE MEMORIES WE HAVE OF OUR LIVES THERE... THEY ARE FALSE. THEY DON'T BELONG TO US!


"THEN, SUDDENLY, I WAS BACK WITH YOU."
CAN I TRY ON THE ARMOR, ILLYANA?
SURE, ROOMIE! PHASE IT ON! MY CLOTHES ARE YOUR CLOTHES!
LOOK, I DON'T GET IT! WHY DID THE SOULSWORD DESTROY THE BROOD EGGS? THEY WEREN'T *MAGIC*... WERE THEY?
I DUNNO! MUST *BE*... SOMEHOW! BECAUSE IT *WORKED!*
DARN! I'M TOO SKINNY!
WHAT *DID* HAPPEN TO THE CLONES? THEY'RE NOT ON *EARTH?*
SCARED YOURS'LL DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET, PRYDE? BUT, NO...
I THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING THEM IN LIMBO TO REPLACE THE *X-MEN* WHO DIED THERE, BUT THAT'S NO PLACE FOR *PEOPLE!*
SO I 'PORTED THEM BACK TO THE STAR SHIP TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE MURDERED CREW!
THEY'LL LIKE THAT... ACTING AS GUARDIANS FOR THE PASSENGERS IN COLD SLEEP...
...PROTECTING THEM FROM ANY OTHER ATTACKERS OR SLEAZOIDS OR EGGS WE WEREN'T TOLD ABOUT!
AND MY SPELL INSURES THAT, OVER THE YEARS, THEY'LL BECOME FAR DIFFERENT FROM THE X-MEN...
...YET STILL *PEOPLE*, REAL *INDIVIDUALS!*
GOSH, ILLYANA, THAT'S *NEAT!*
YEAH... IT WAS GOOD TO *SAVE* THEM! I FELT... BETTER, AFTERWARD! LIKE A WEIGHT HAD LIFTED FROM MY SOUL!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF DREAMS. *NONSENSE* DREAMS. *PROPHETIC* DREAMS. DREAMS WHERE FRIENDS LIKE KITTY HELP TO *POINT THE WAY.*
IN MY DREAM, *LOCKHEED* KILLED THE MONSTER, BUT IT WAS *ME*... MY *MAGICK*... THAT SAVED THE X-MEN.
REM
BUT HERE, IN *REALITY*, MY BROTHER IS *DEAD*... WHILE FORGE ROAMS *FREE.*
BUT I CAN *KILL* THAT MONSTER, MAYBE... IF I *DARE...!*
NEXT: INSTANT RE-PLAY! THE NEW MUTANTS BURY THEIR DEAD...OR DO THEY?

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THE NEW
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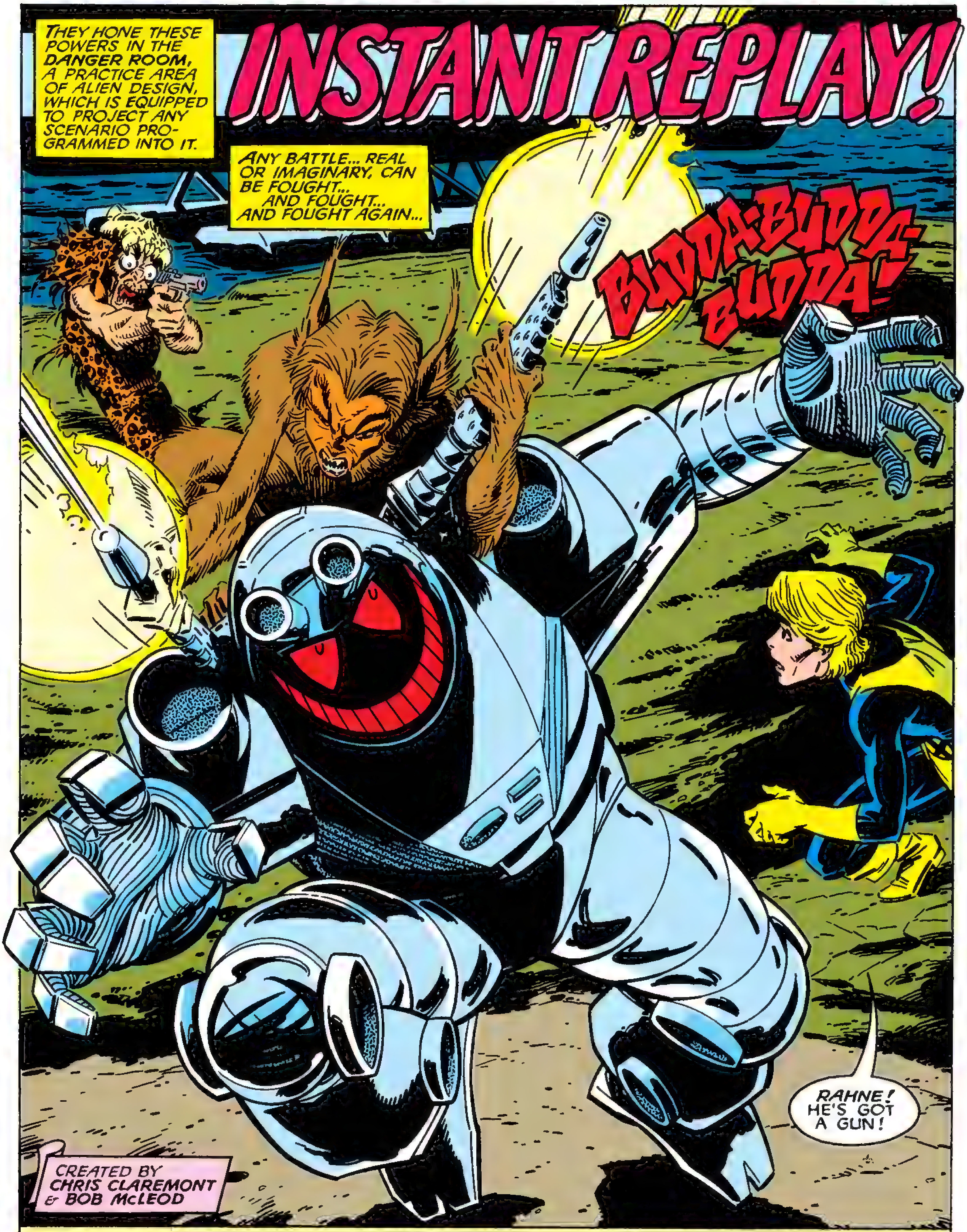
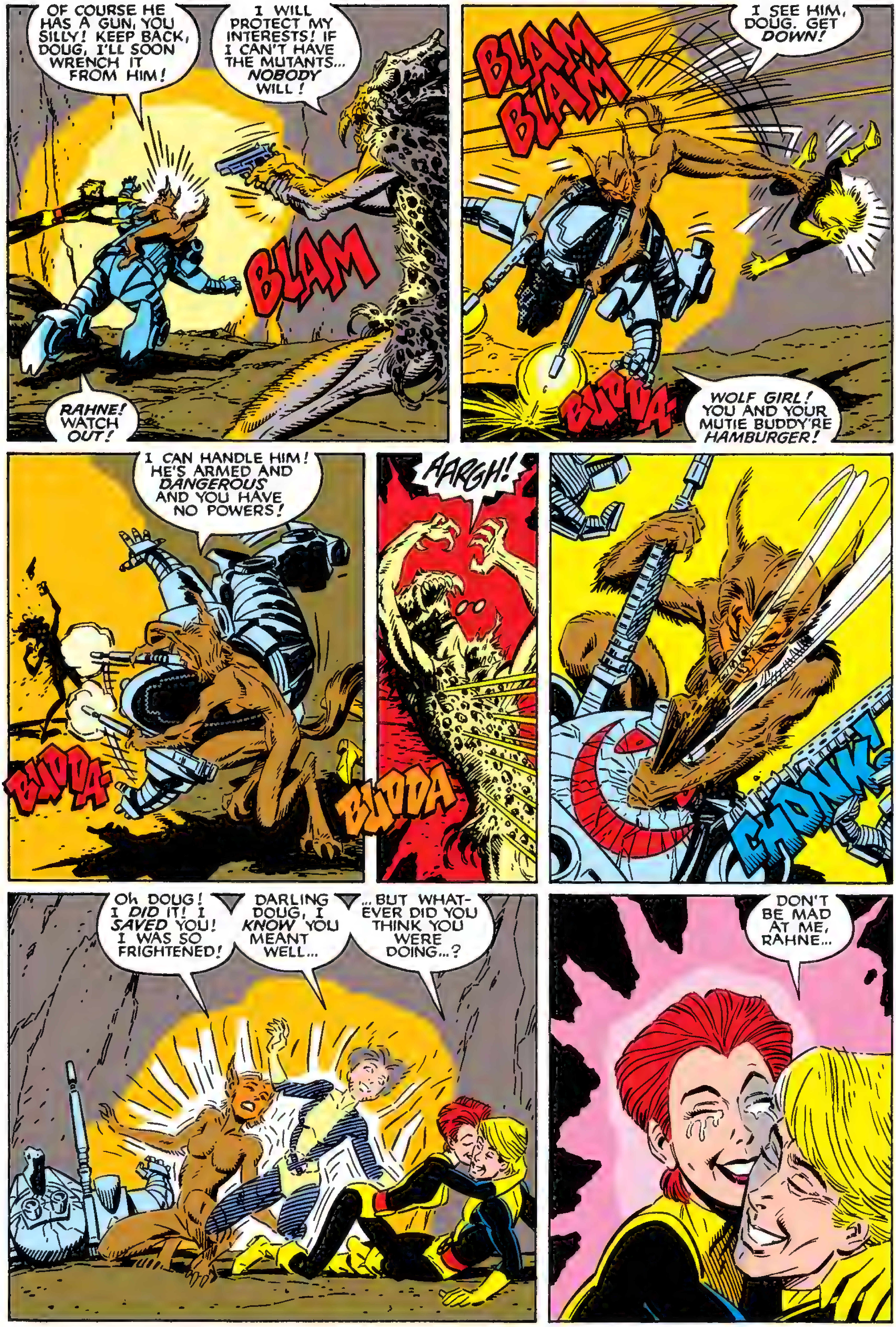
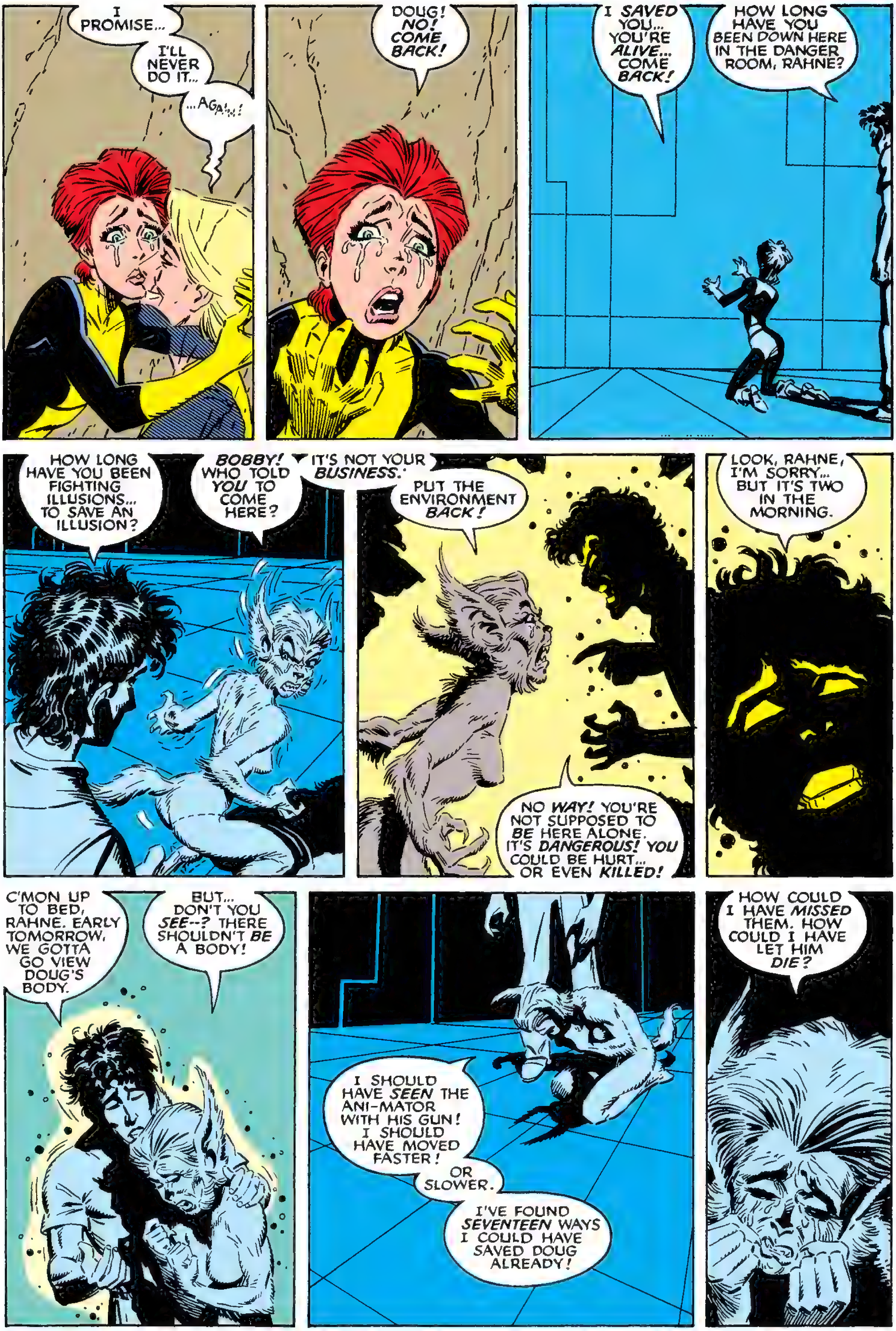
THE RESURRECTION OF CYPHER!™
BRET & TERRY

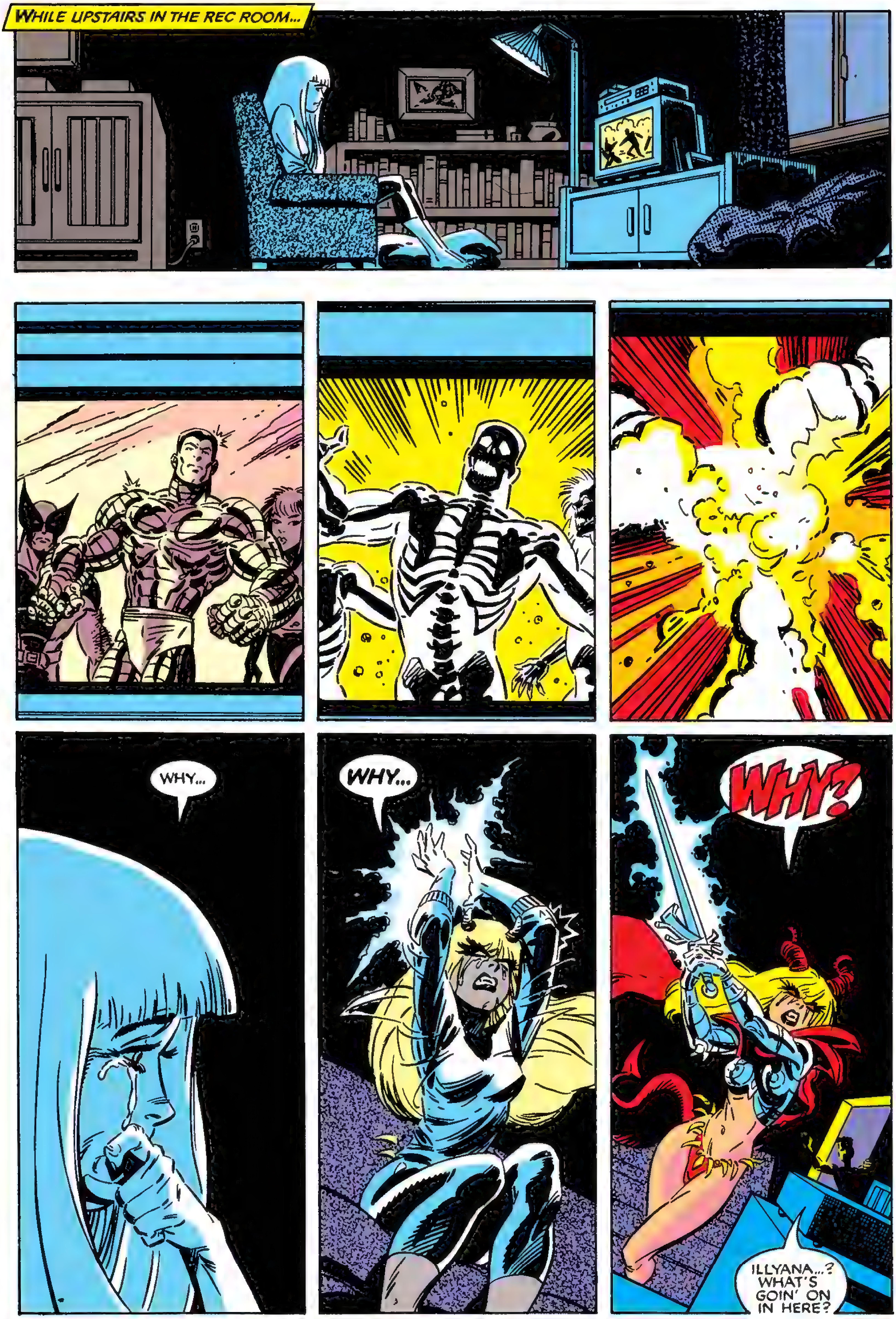
THE TEENAGE STUDENTS AT **PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS** WERE BORN WITH AN X-FACTOR IN THEIR GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GAVE THEM EXTRAORDINARY POWERS.

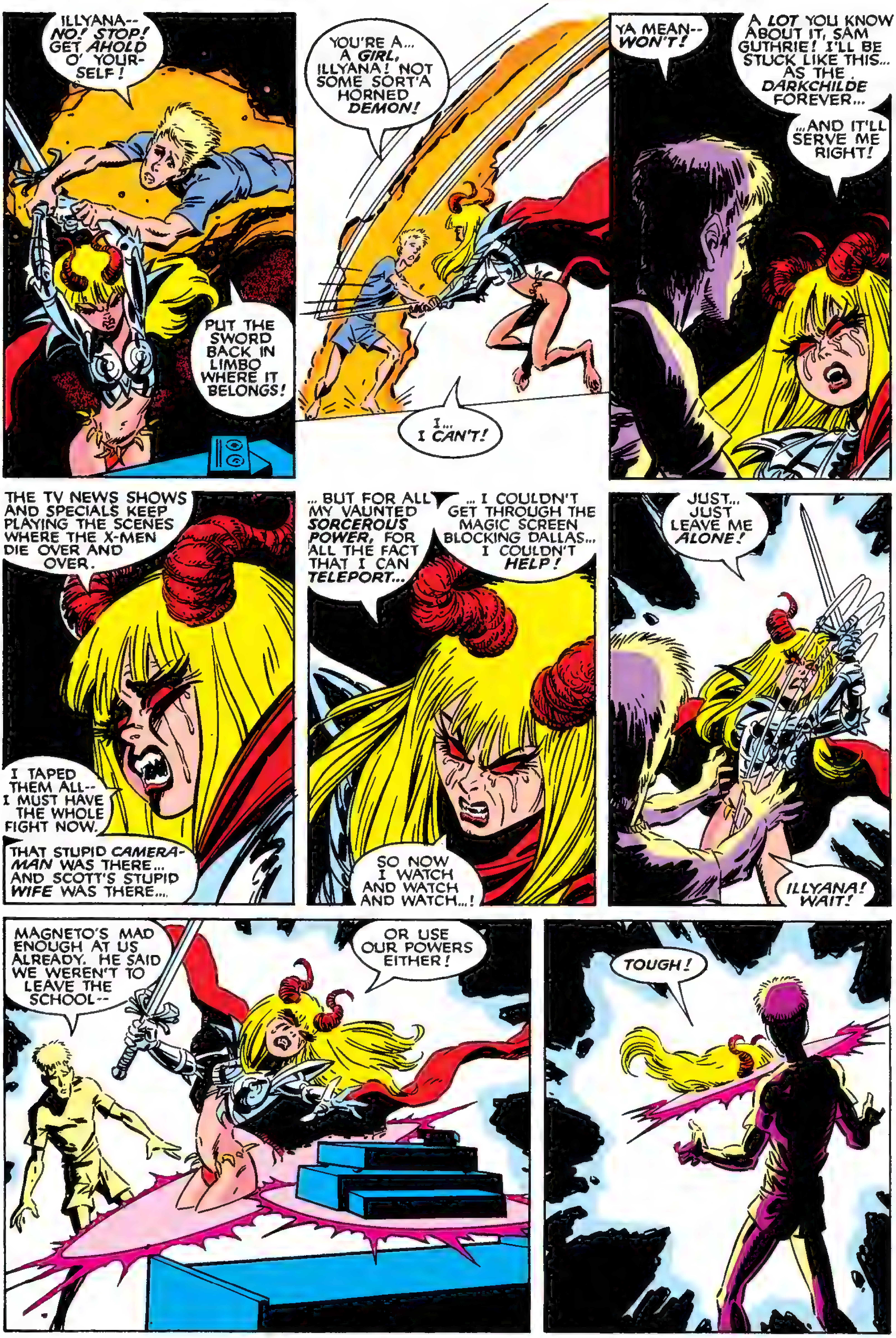

THEY HONE THESE POWERS IN THE DANGER ROOM, A PRACTICE AREA OF ALIEN DESIGN, WHICH IS EQUIPPED TO PROJECT ANY SCENARIO PROGRAMMED INTO IT.
INSTANT REPLAY!
ANY BATTLE... REAL OR IMAGINARY, CAN BE FOUGHT... AND FOUGHT... AND FOUGHT AGAIN...
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
RAHNE! HE'S GOT A GUN!
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & BOB McLEOD

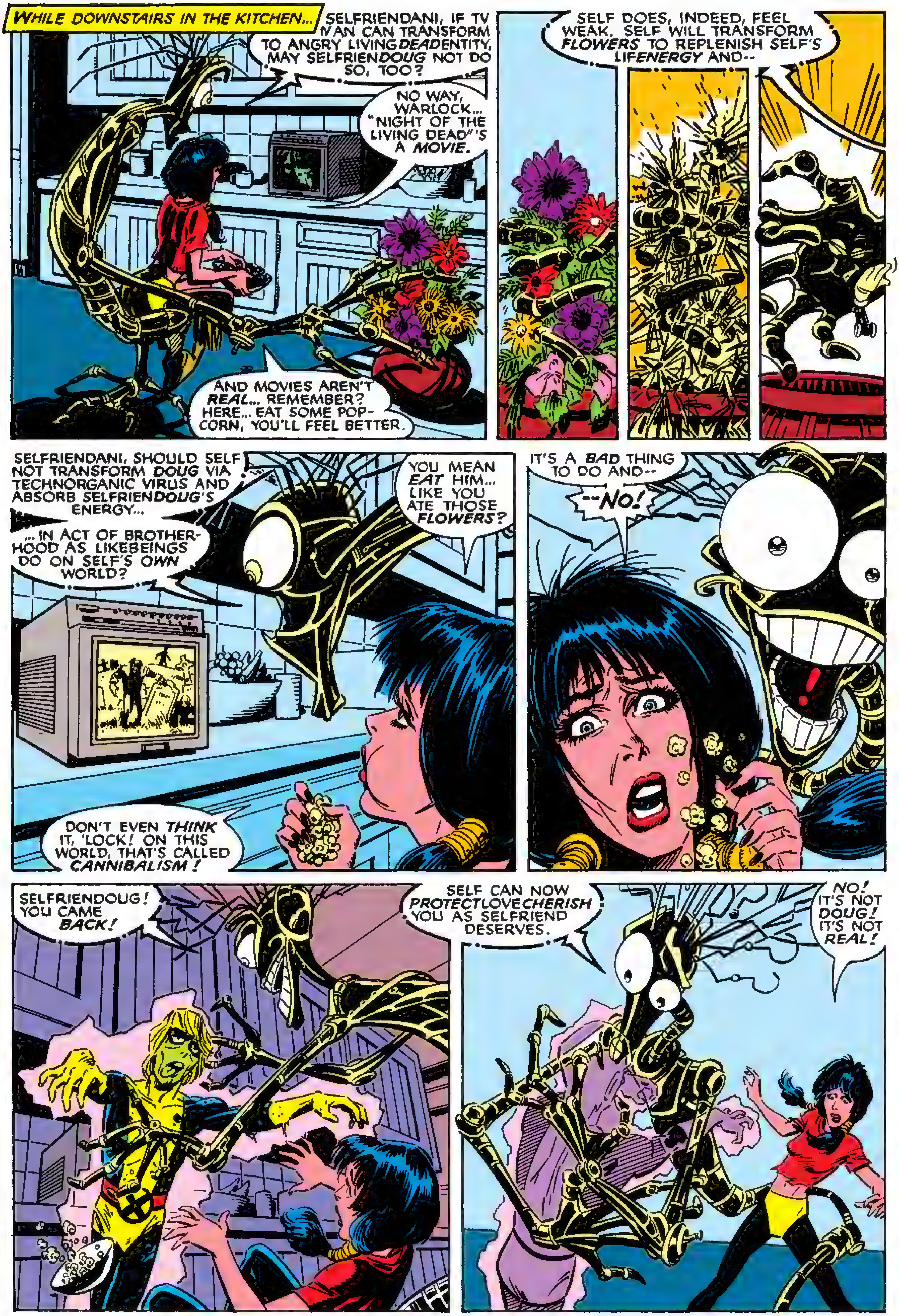
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER | **BRET BLEVINS** PENCILER | **TERRY AUSTIN** INKER | **TOM ORZECHOWSKI**, LETTERER **GLYNIS OLIVER**, COLORIST | **ANN NOCENTI** EDITOR | **TOM DeFALCO** EDITOR IN CHIEF

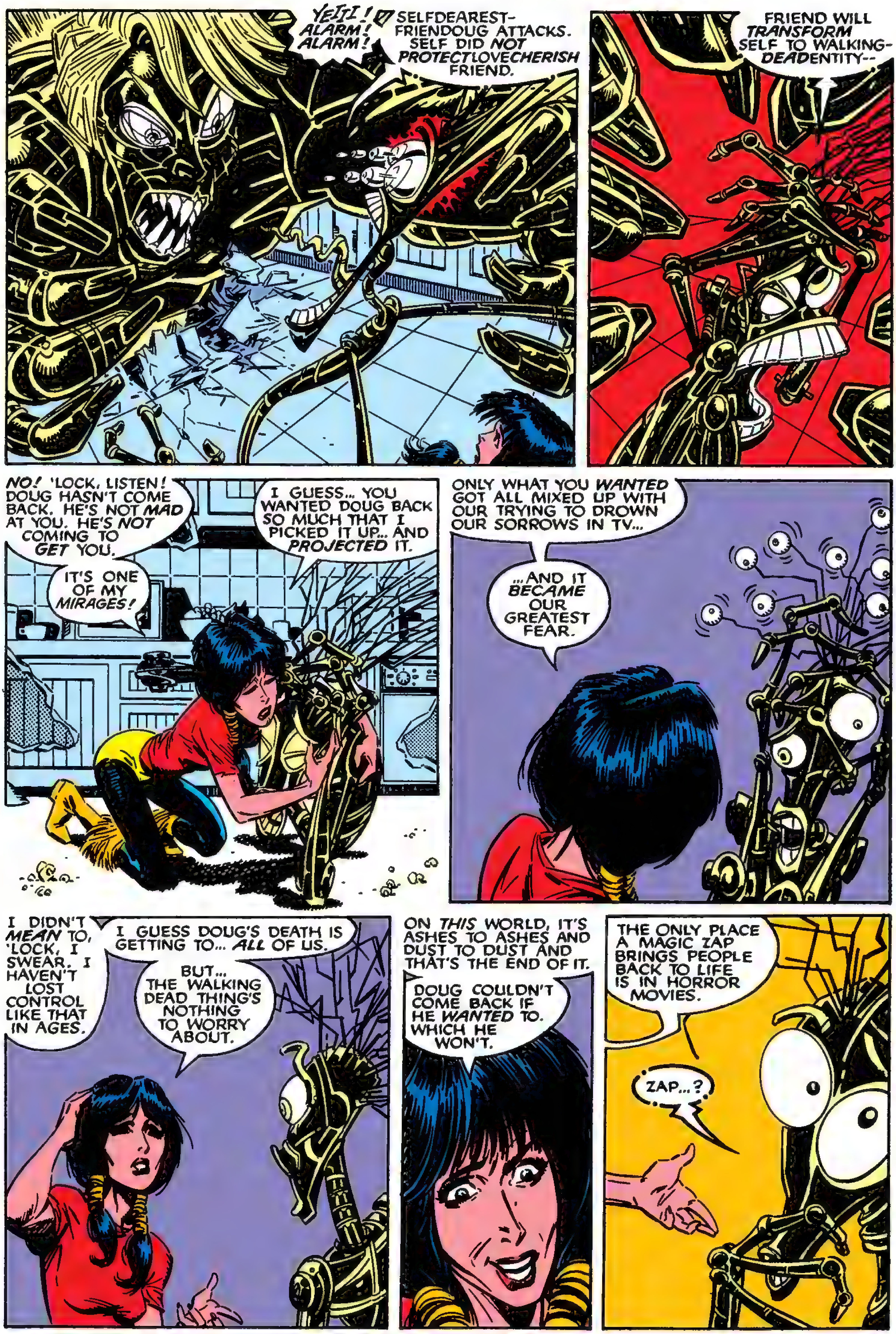

OF COURSE HE HAS A GUN, YOU SILLY! KEEP BACK, DOUG, I'LL SOON WRENCH IT FROM HIM!
I WILL PROTECT MY INTERESTS! IF I CAN'T HAVE THE MUTANTS... *NOBODY* WILL!
BLAM
RAHNE! WATCH *OUT!*
BLAM BLAM
I SEE HIM, DOUG. GET *DOWN!*
BUDDA-
WOLF GIRL! YOU AND YOUR MUTIE BUDDY'RE *HAMBURGER!*
I CAN HANDLE HIM! HE'S ARMED AND *DANGEROUS* AND YOU HAVE NO POWERS!
BUDDA-
BUDDA
AARGH!
CHONK!
Oh DOUG! I *DID* IT! I *SAVED* YOU! I WAS SO FRIGHTENED!
DARLING DOUG, I *KNOW* YOU MEANT WELL...
...BUT WHATEVER DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING...?
DON'T BE MAD AT ME, RAHNE...

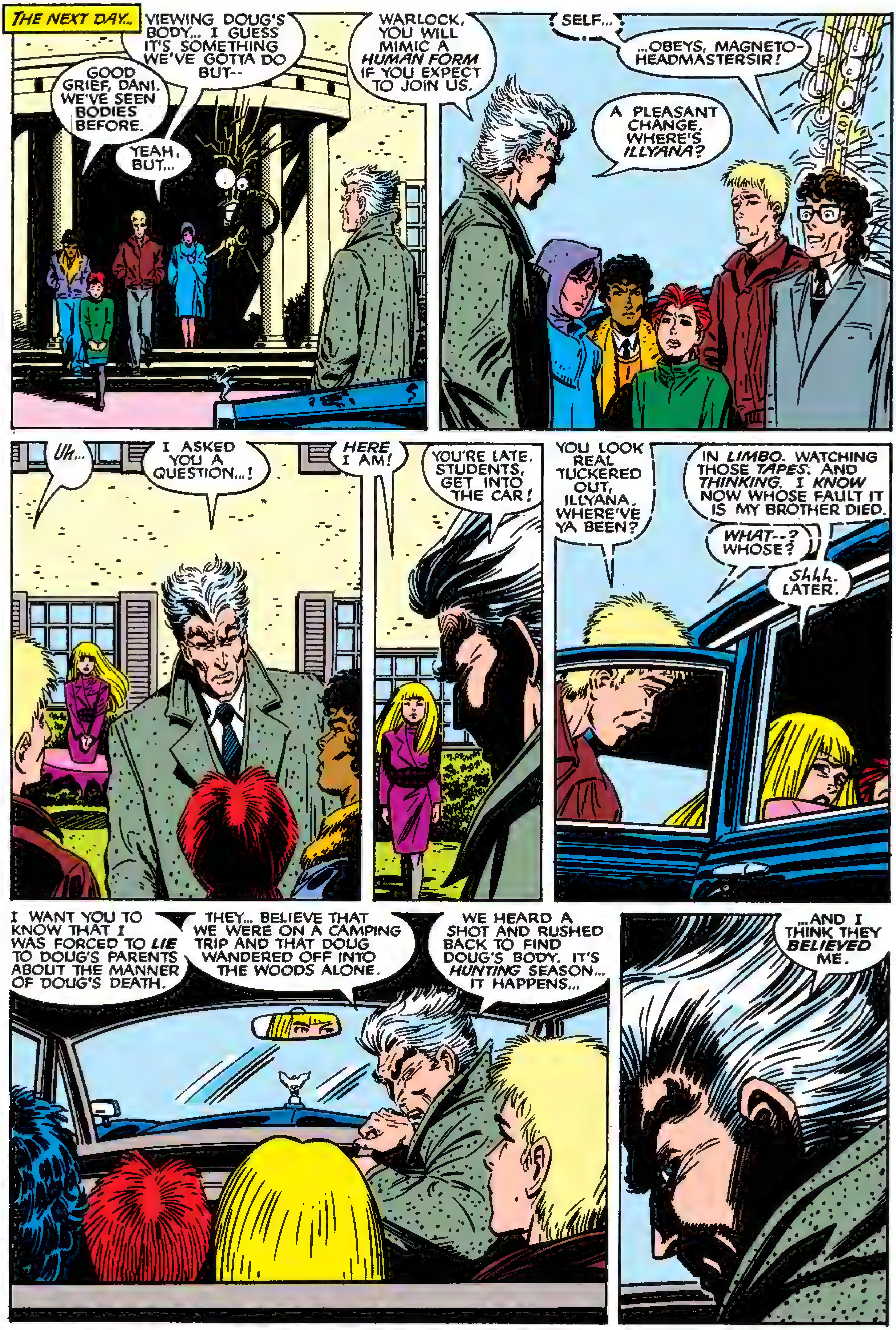

I PROMISE...
I'LL NEVER DO IT...
...AGAIN!
DOUG! NO! COME BACK!
I SAVED YOU... YOU'RE ALIVE... COME BACK!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOWN HERE IN THE DANGER ROOM, RAHNE?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING ILLUSIONS... TO SAVE AN ILLUSION?
BOBBY! WHO TOLD YOU TO COME HERE?
IT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS.
PUT THE ENVIRONMENT BACK!
NO WAY! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE ALONE. IT'S DANGEROUS! YOU COULD BE HURT... OR EVEN KILLED!
LOOK, RAHNE, I'M SORRY... BUT IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING.
C'MON UP TO BED, RAHNE. EARLY TOMORROW, WE GOTTA GO VIEW DOUG'S BODY.
BUT... DON'T YOU SEE--? THERE SHOULDN'T BE A BODY!
I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE ANI-MATOR WITH HIS GUN! I SHOULD HAVE MOVED FASTER!
OR SLOWER.
I'VE FOUND SEVENTEEN WAYS I COULD HAVE SAVED DOUG ALREADY!
HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED THEM. HOW COULD I HAVE LET HIM DIE?

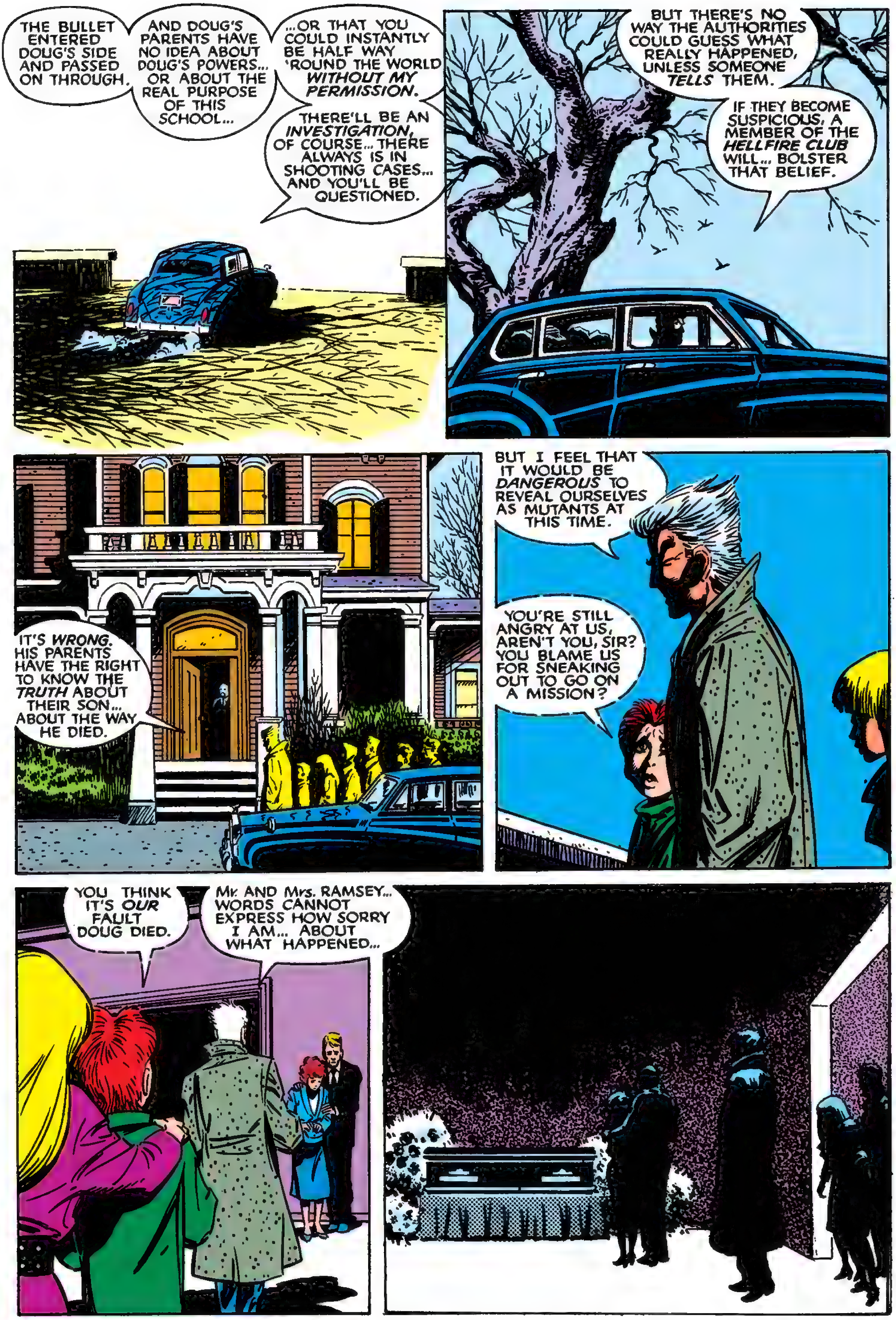

WHILE UPSTAIRS IN THE REC ROOM...
WHY...
WHY...
WHY?
ILLYANA...? WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN HERE?

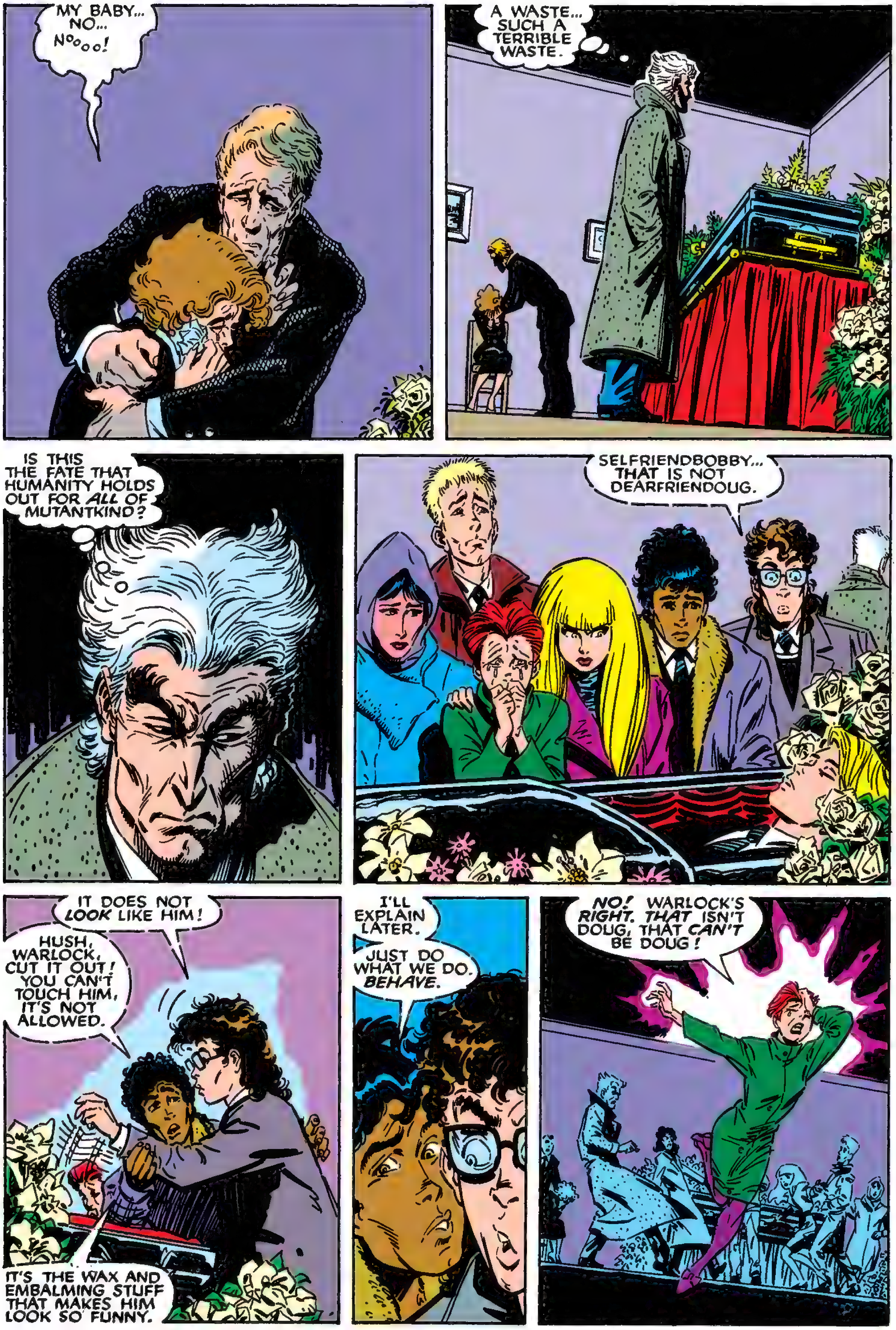

ILLYANA-- NO! STOP! GET AHOLD O' YOURSELF!
PUT THE SWORD BACK IN LIMBO WHERE IT BELONGS!
YOU'RE A... A GIRL, ILLYANA! NOT SOME SORT'A HORNED DEMON!
I... I CAN'T!
YA MEAN-- WON'T!
A LOT YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, SAM GUTHRIE! I'LL BE STUCK LIKE THIS... AS THE DARKCHILDE FOREVER...
...AND IT'LL SERVE ME RIGHT!
THE TV NEWS SHOWS AND SPECIALS KEEP PLAYING THE SCENES WHERE THE X-MEN DIE OVER AND OVER.
I TAPED THEM ALL-- I MUST HAVE THE WHOLE FIGHT NOW.
THAT STUPID CAMERAMAN WAS THERE... AND SCOTT'S STUPID WIFE WAS THERE...
... BUT FOR ALL MY VAUNTED SORCEROUS POWER, FOR ALL THE FACT THAT I CAN TELEPORT...
... I COULDN'T GET THROUGH THE MAGIC SCREEN BLOCKING DALLAS... I COULDN'T HELP!
SO NOW I WATCH AND WATCH AND WATCH...!
JUST... JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
ILLYANA! WAIT!
MAGNETO'S MAD ENOUGH AT US ALREADY. HE SAID WE WEREN'T TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL--
OR USE OUR POWERS EITHER!
TOUGH!

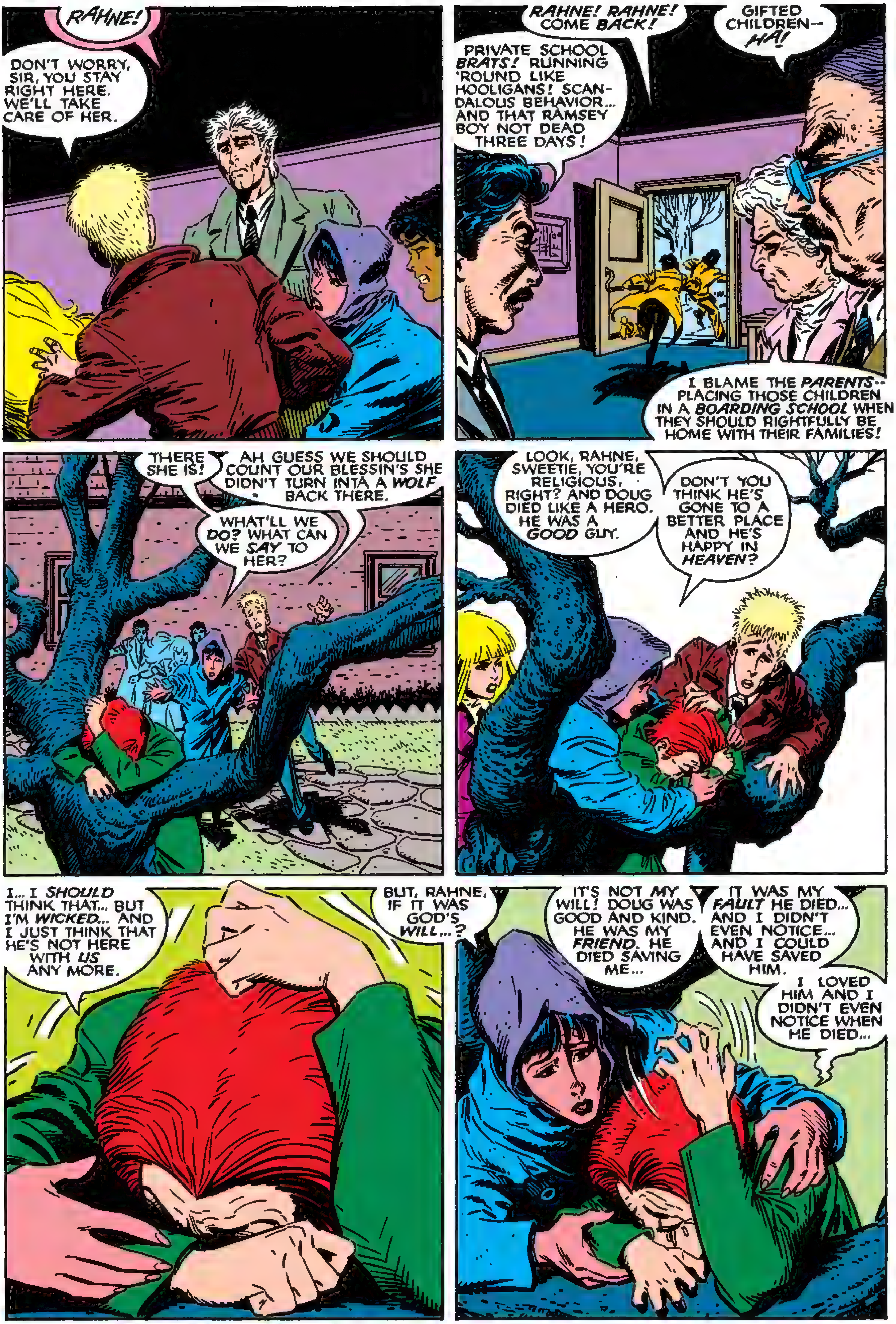

WHILE DOWNSTAIRS IN THE KITCHEN...
SELFRIENDANI, IF TV MAN CAN TRANSFORM TO ANGRY LIVING*DEAD*ENTITY, MAY SELFRIEND*DOUG* NOT DO SO, TOO?
NO WAY, WARLOCK... "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD"'S A *MOVIE*.
AND MOVIES AREN'T *REAL*... REMEMBER? HERE... EAT SOME POPCORN, YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
SELF DOES, INDEED, FEEL WEAK. SELF WILL TRANSFORM *FLOWERS* TO REPLENISH SELF'S LIFE*ENERGY* AND--
SELFRIENDANI, SHOULD SELF NOT TRANSFORM *DOUG* VIA TECHNORGANIC VIRUS AND ABSORB SELFRIEND*DOUG'S* ENERGY...
...IN ACT OF BROTHERHOOD AS LIKEBEINGS DO ON SELF'S *OWN* WORLD?
YOU MEAN *EAT* HIM... LIKE YOU ATE THOSE *FLOWERS?*
DON'T EVEN *THINK* IT, 'LOCK! ON THIS WORLD, THAT'S CALLED *CANNIBALISM!*
IT'S A *BAD* THING TO DO AND--
--*NO!*
SELFRIENDOUG! YOU CAME *BACK!*
SELF CAN NOW *PROTECTLOVECHERISH* YOU AS SELFRIEND DESERVES.
NO! IT'S NOT *DOUG!* IT'S NOT *REAL!*

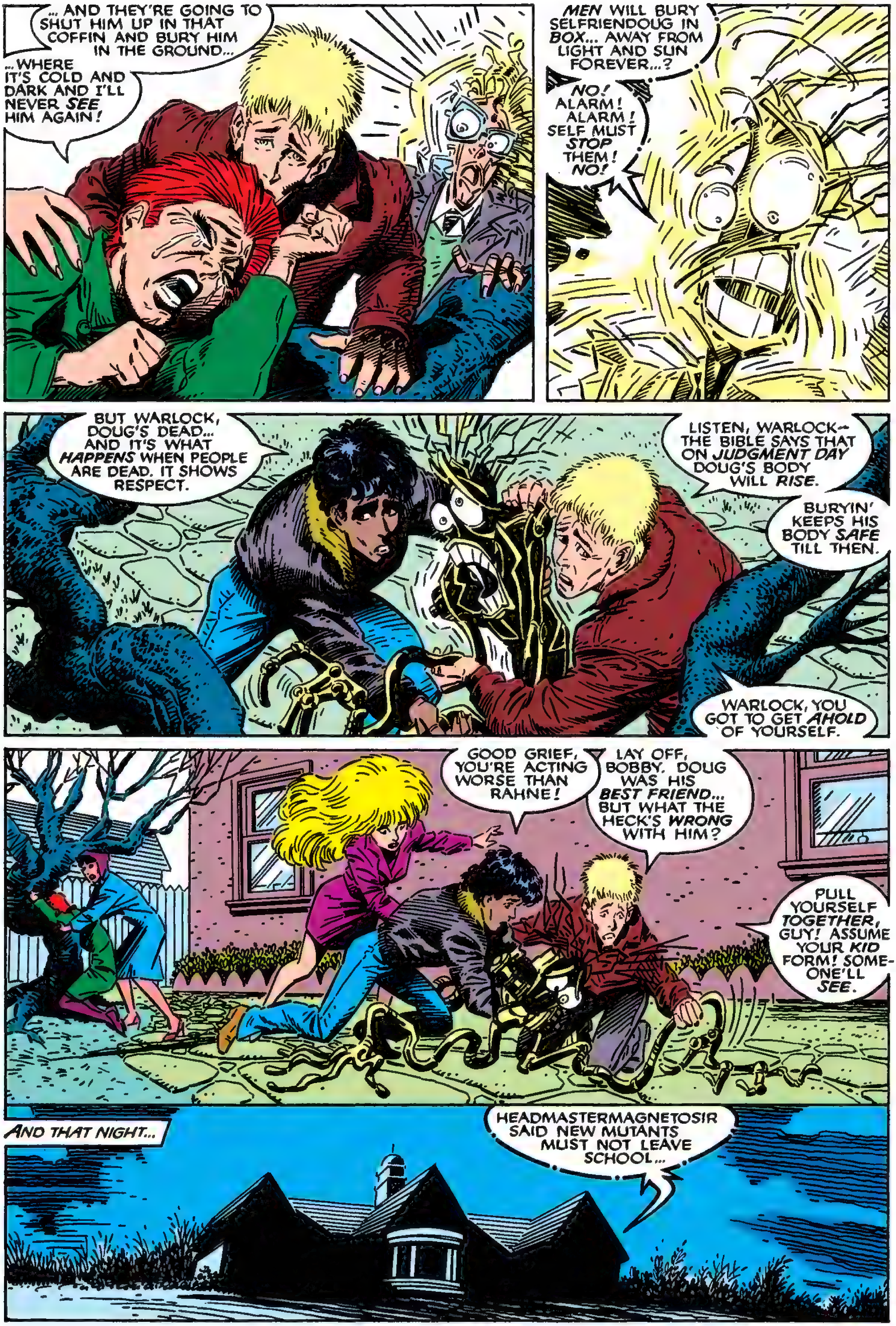

YEIII! ALARM! ALARM!
SELFDEAREST-FRIENDOUG ATTACKS. SELF DID *NOT* *PROTECTLOVECHERISH* FRIEND.
FRIEND WILL *TRANSFORM* SELF TO WALKING-*DEAD*ENTITY--
NO! 'LOCK, LISTEN! DOUG HASN'T COME BACK. HE'S NOT *MAD* AT YOU. HE'S *NOT* COMING TO *GET* YOU.
IT'S ONE OF MY *MIRAGES!*
I GUESS... YOU WANTED DOUG BACK SO MUCH THAT I PICKED IT UP.. AND *PROJECTED* IT.
ONLY WHAT YOU *WANTED* GOT ALL MIXED UP WITH OUR TRYING TO DROWN OUR SORROWS IN TV...
...AND IT *BECAME* OUR GREATEST FEAR.
I DIDN'T *MEAN* TO, 'LOCK, I SWEAR. I HAVEN'T LOST CONTROL LIKE THAT IN AGES.
I GUESS DOUG'S DEATH IS GETTING TO... *ALL* OF US.
BUT... THE WALKING DEAD THING'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ON *THIS* WORLD, IT'S ASHES TO ASHES AND DUST TO DUST AND THAT'S THE END OF IT.
DOUG COULDN'T COME BACK IF HE *WANTED* TO. WHICH HE WON'T.
THE ONLY PLACE A MAGIC ZAP BRINGS PEOPLE BACK TO LIFE IS IN HORROR MOVIES.
ZAP...?

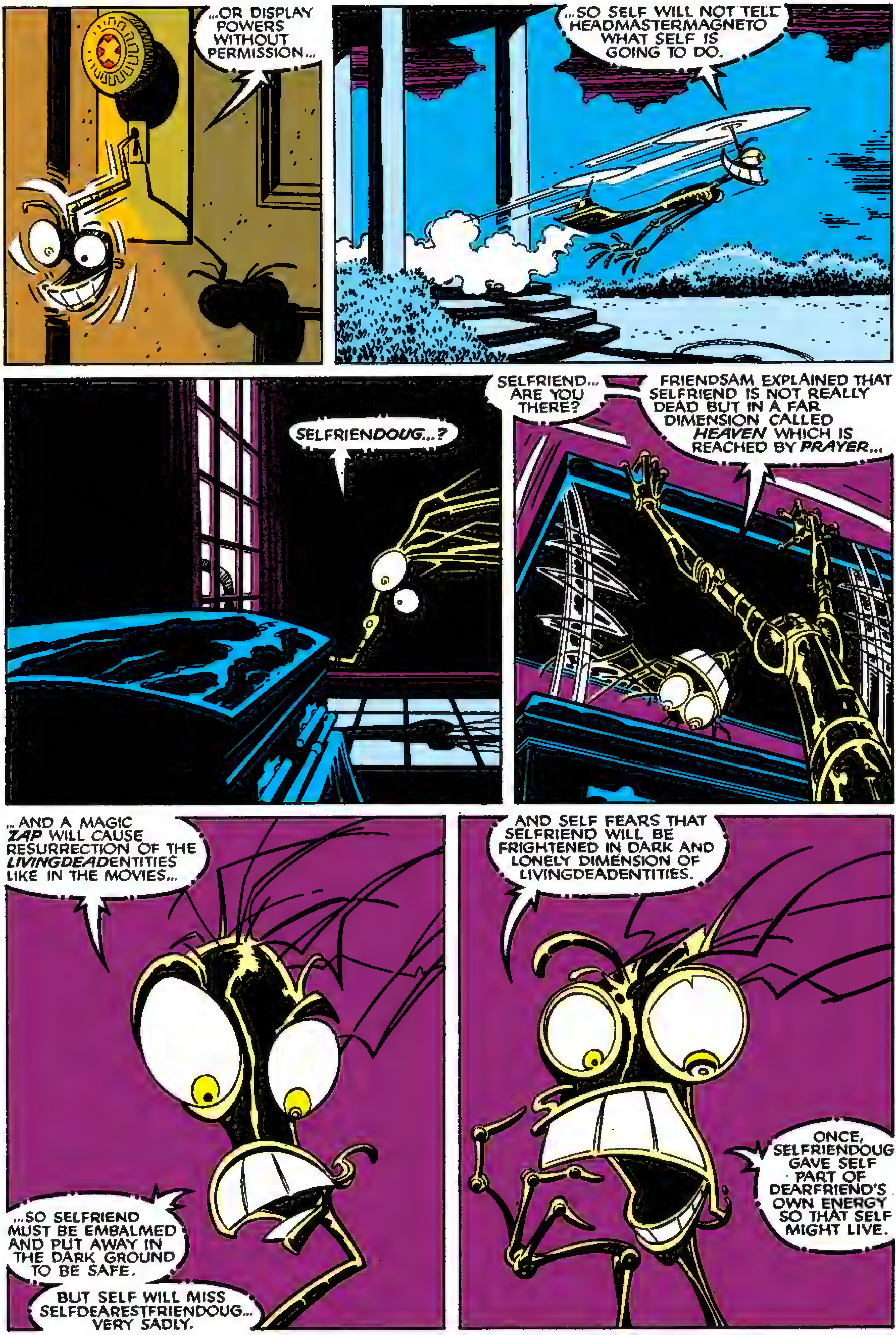

THE NEXT DAY...
VIEWING DOUG'S BODY... I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING WE'VE GOTTA DO BUT--
GOOD GRIEF, DANI. WE'VE SEEN BODIES BEFORE.
YEAH, BUT...
WARLOCK, YOU WILL MIMIC A *HUMAN FORM* IF YOU EXPECT TO JOIN US.
SELF...
...OBEYS, MAGNETO-HEADMASTERSIR!
A PLEASANT CHANGE. WHERE'S *ILLYANA?*
Uh...
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION...!
HERE I AM!
YOU'RE LATE. STUDENTS, GET INTO THE CAR!
YOU LOOK REAL TUCKERED OUT, ILLYANA. WHERE'VE YA BEEN?
IN *LIMBO*. WATCHING THOSE *TAPES*. AND *THINKING*. I *KNOW* NOW WHOSE FAULT IT IS MY BROTHER DIED.
WHAT--? WHOSE?
Shhh. LATER.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I WAS FORCED TO *LIE* TO DOUG'S PARENTS ABOUT THE MANNER OF DOUG'S DEATH.
THEY... BELIEVE THAT WE WERE ON A CAMPING TRIP AND THAT DOUG WANDERED OFF INTO THE WOODS ALONE.
WE HEARD A SHOT AND RUSHED BACK TO FIND DOUG'S BODY. IT'S *HUNTING* SEASON... IT HAPPENS...
...AND I THINK THEY *BELIEVED* ME.

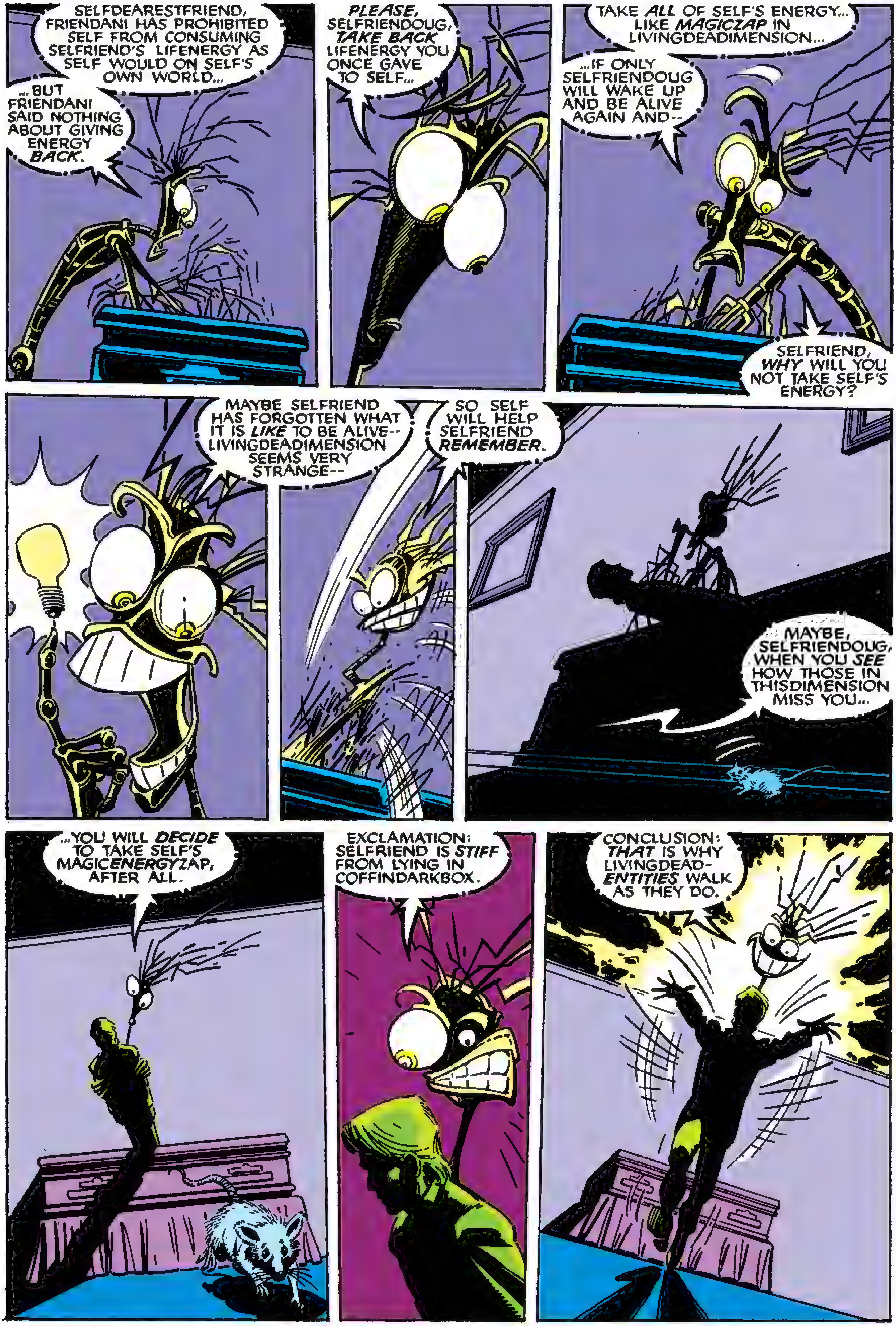

THE BULLET ENTERED DOUG'S SIDE AND PASSED ON THROUGH.
AND DOUG'S PARENTS HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT DOUG'S POWERS... OR ABOUT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THIS SCHOOL...
...OR THAT YOU COULD INSTANTLY BE HALF WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD *WITHOUT MY PERMISSION*.
THERE'LL BE AN *INVESTIGATION*, OF COURSE... THERE ALWAYS IS IN SHOOTING CASES... AND YOU'LL BE QUESTIONED.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY THE AUTHORITIES COULD GUESS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, UNLESS SOMEONE *TELLS* THEM.
IF THEY BECOME SUSPICIOUS, A MEMBER OF THE *HELLFIRE CLUB* WILL... BOLSTER THAT BELIEF.
IT'S *WRONG*. HIS PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE *TRUTH* ABOUT THEIR SON... ABOUT THE WAY HE DIED.
BUT I FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE *DANGEROUS* TO REVEAL OURSELVES AS MUTANTS AT THIS TIME.
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY AT US, AREN'T YOU, SIR? YOU BLAME US FOR SNEAKING OUT TO GO ON A MISSION?
YOU THINK IT'S *OUR* FAULT DOUG DIED.
Mr. AND Mrs. RAMSEY... WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW SORRY I AM... ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

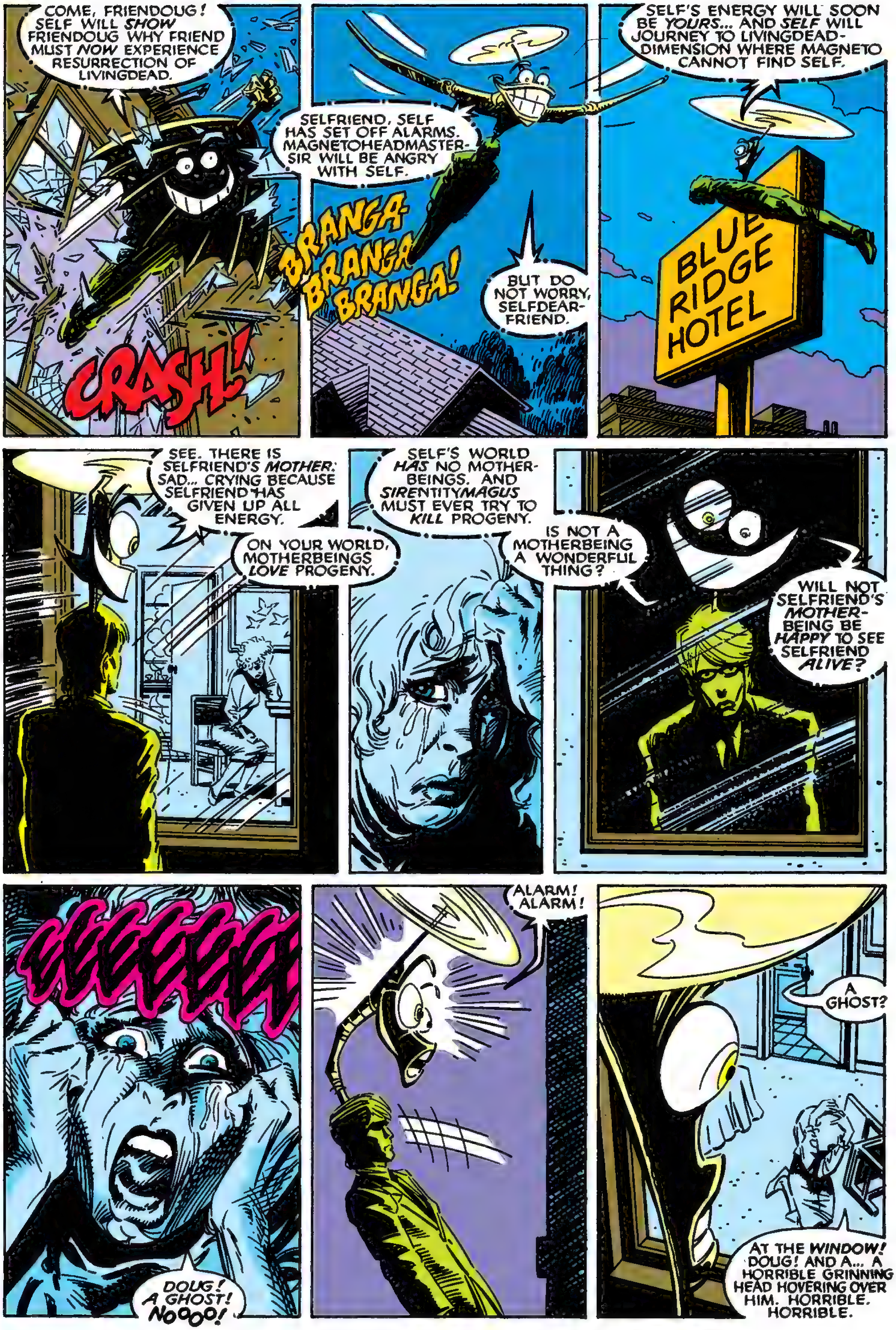

MY BABY... NO... Noooo!
A WASTE... SUCH A TERRIBLE WASTE.
IS THIS THE FATE THAT HUMANITY HOLDS OUT FOR *ALL* OF MUTANTKIND?
SELFRIENDBOBBY... THAT IS NOT DEARFRIENDDOUG.
IT DOES NOT *LOOK* LIKE HIM!
HUSH, WARLOCK, CUT IT OUT! YOU CAN'T TOUCH HIM, IT'S NOT ALLOWED.
IT'S THE WAX AND EMBALMING STUFF THAT MAKES HIM LOOK SO FUNNY.
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
JUST DO WHAT WE DO. *BEHAVE.*
NO! WARLOCK'S *RIGHT. THAT* ISN'T DOUG, THAT *CAN'T* BE DOUG!

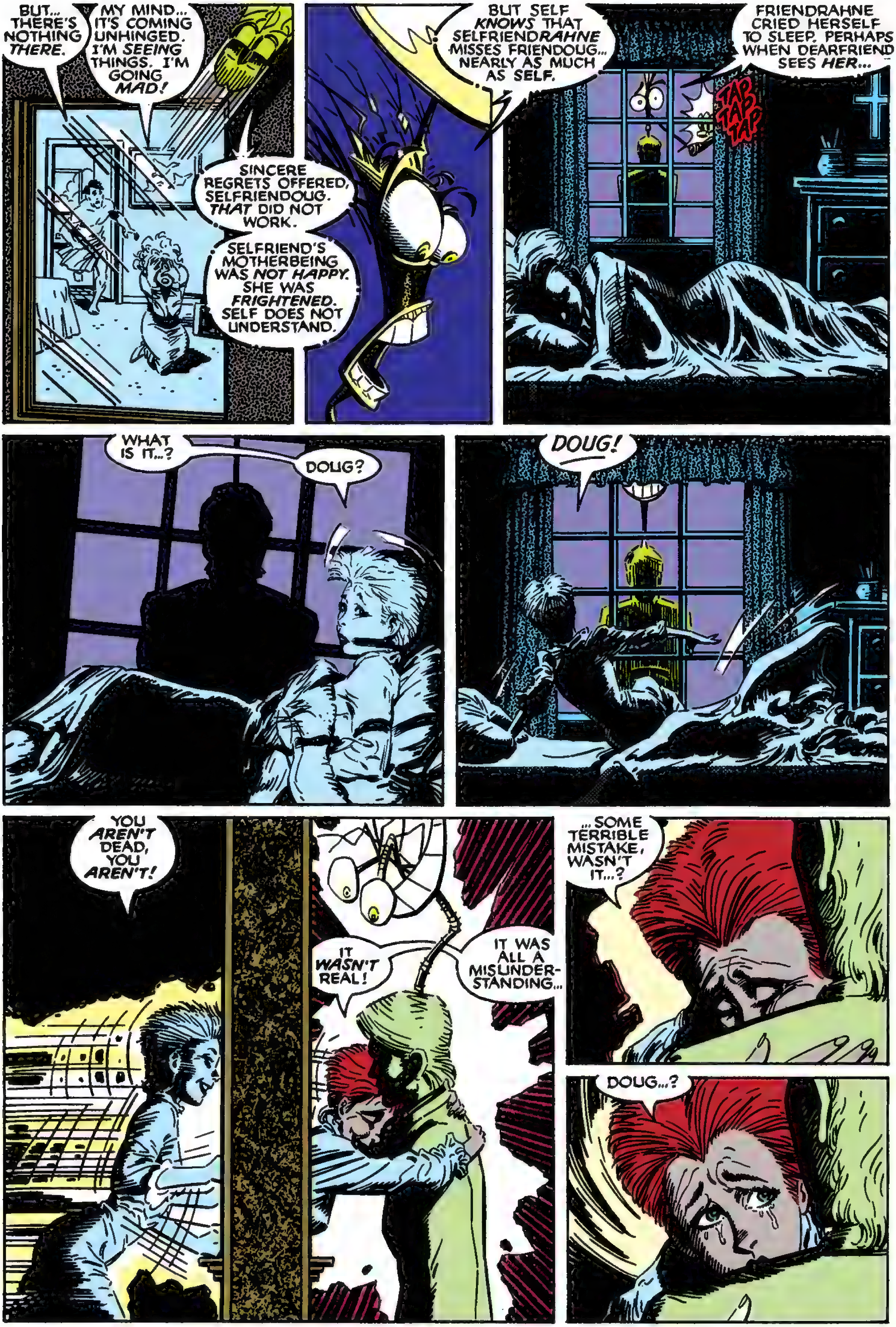

RAHNE!
DON'T WORRY, SIR, YOU STAY RIGHT HERE. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
RAHNE! RAHNE! COME BACK!
GIFTED CHILDREN-- HA!
PRIVATE SCHOOL BRATS! RUNNING 'ROUND LIKE HOOLIGANS! SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR... AND THAT RAMSEY BOY NOT DEAD THREE DAYS!
I BLAME THE PARENTS-- PLACING THOSE CHILDREN IN A BOARDING SCHOOL WHEN THEY SHOULD RIGHTFULLY BE HOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES!
THERE SHE IS!
AH GUESS WE SHOULD COUNT OUR BLESSIN'S SHE DIDN'T TURN INTA A WOLF BACK THERE.
WHAT'LL WE DO? WHAT CAN WE SAY TO HER?
LOOK, RAHNE, SWEETIE, YOU'RE RELIGIOUS, RIGHT? AND DOUG DIED LIKE A HERO. HE WAS A GOOD GUY.
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S GONE TO A BETTER PLACE AND HE'S HAPPY IN HEAVEN?
I... I SHOULD THINK THAT... BUT I'M WICKED... AND I JUST THINK THAT HE'S NOT HERE WITH US ANY MORE.
BUT, RAHNE, IF IT WAS GOD'S WILL...?
IT'S NOT MY WILL! DOUG WAS GOOD AND KIND. HE WAS MY FRIEND. HE DIED SAVING ME...
IT WAS MY FAULT HE DIED... AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE... AND I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.
I LOVED HIM AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN HE DIED...

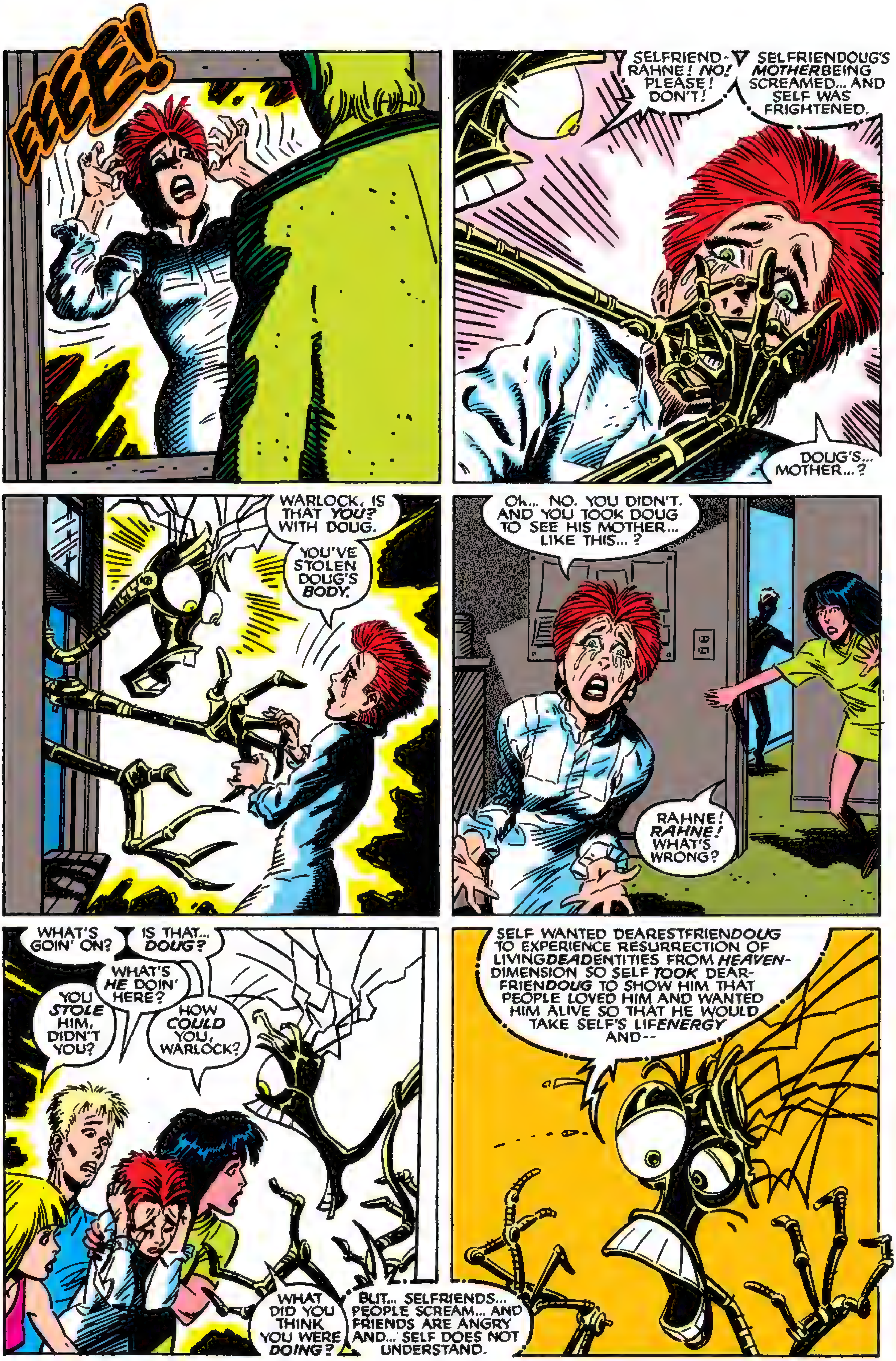

... AND THEY'RE GOING TO SHUT HIM UP IN THAT COFFIN AND BURY HIM IN THE GROUND...
...WHERE IT'S COLD AND DARK AND I'LL NEVER *SEE* HIM AGAIN!
MEN WILL BURY SELFRIENDDOUG IN *BOX*... AWAY FROM LIGHT AND SUN FOREVER...?
NO! ALARM! ALARM! SELF MUST *STOP* THEM! *NO!*
BUT WARLOCK, DOUG'S DEAD... AND IT'S WHAT *HAPPENS* WHEN PEOPLE ARE DEAD. IT SHOWS RESPECT.
LISTEN, WARLOCK-- THE BIBLE SAYS THAT ON *JUDGMENT DAY* DOUG'S BODY WILL *RISE*.
BURYIN' KEEPS HIS BODY *SAFE* TILL THEN.
WARLOCK, YOU GOT TO GET *AHOLD* OF YOURSELF.
GOOD GRIEF, YOU'RE ACTING WORSE THAN RAHNE!
LAY OFF, BOBBY. DOUG WAS HIS *BEST FRIEND*... BUT WHAT THE HECK'S *WRONG* WITH HIM?
PULL YOURSELF *TOGETHER*, GUY! ASSUME YOUR *KID* FORM! SOMEONE'LL *SEE*.
AND THAT NIGHT...
HEADMASTERMAGNETOSIR SAID NEW MUTANTS MUST NOT LEAVE SCHOOL...

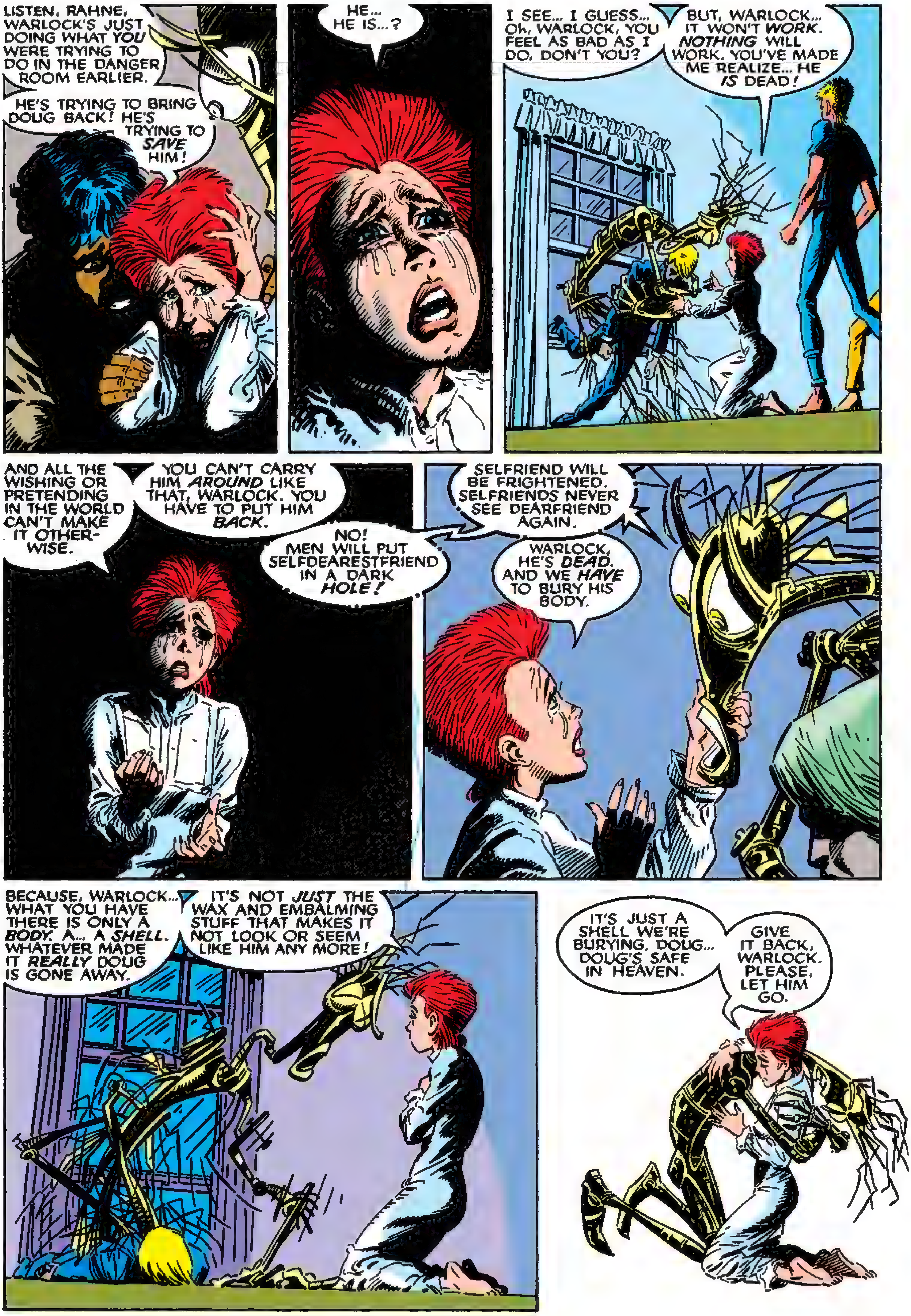

...OR DISPLAY POWERS WITHOUT PERMISSION...
...SO SELF WILL NOT TELL HEADMASTERMAGNETO WHAT SELF IS GOING TO DO.
SELFRIENDDOUG...?
SELFRIEND... ARE YOU THERE?
FRIENDSAM EXPLAINED THAT SELFRIEND IS NOT REALLY DEAD BUT IN A FAR DIMENSION CALLED HEAVEN WHICH IS REACHED BY PRAYER...
...AND A MAGIC ZAP WILL CAUSE RESURRECTION OF THE LIVINGDEADENTITIES LIKE IN THE MOVIES...
...SO SELFRIEND MUST BE EMBALMED AND PUT AWAY IN THE DARK GROUND TO BE SAFE.
BUT SELF WILL MISS SELFDEARESTFRIENDOUG... VERY SADLY.
AND SELF FEARS THAT SELFRIEND WILL BE FRIGHTENED IN DARK AND LONELY DIMENSION OF LIVINGDEADENTITIES.
ONCE, SELFRIENDDOUG GAVE SELF PART OF DEARFRIEND'S OWN ENERGY SO THAT SELF MIGHT LIVE.

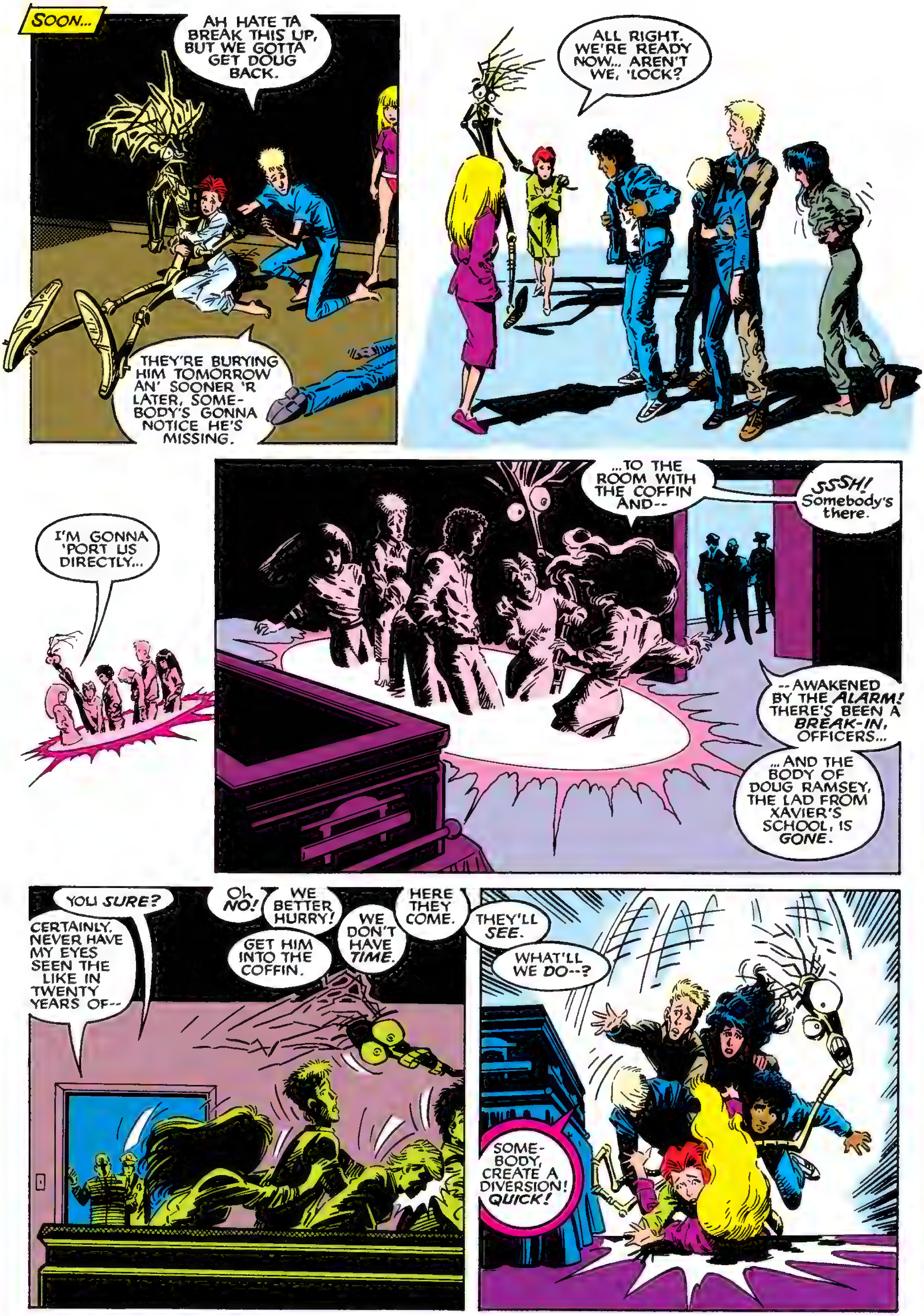

SELFDEAREST FRIEND, FRIENDANI HAS PROHIBITED SELF FROM CONSUMING SELFRIEND'S LIFENERGY AS SELF WOULD ON SELF'S OWN WORLD...
...BUT FRIENDANI SAID NOTHING ABOUT GIVING ENERGY *BACK*.
PLEASE, SELFRIENDOUG, *TAKE BACK* LIFENERGY YOU ONCE GAVE TO SELF...
TAKE *ALL* OF SELF'S ENERGY... LIKE *MAGICZAP* IN LIVINGDEADIMENSION...
...IF ONLY SELFRIENDOUG WILL WAKE UP AND BE ALIVE AGAIN AND--
SELFRIEND, *WHY* WILL YOU NOT TAKE SELF'S ENERGY?
MAYBE SELFRIEND HAS FORGOTTEN WHAT IT IS *LIKE* TO BE ALIVE-- LIVINGDEADIMENSION SEEMS VERY STRANGE--
SO SELF WILL HELP SELFRIEND *REMEMBER*.
MAYBE, SELFRIENDOUG, WHEN YOU *SEE* HOW THOSE IN THISDIMENSION MISS YOU...
...YOU WILL *DECIDE* TO TAKE SELF'S MAGIC*ENERGY*ZAP, AFTER ALL.
EXCLAMATION: SELFRIEND IS *STIFF* FROM LYING IN COFFINDARKBOX.
CONCLUSION: *THAT* IS WHY LIVINGDEAD-*ENTITIES* WALK AS THEY DO.

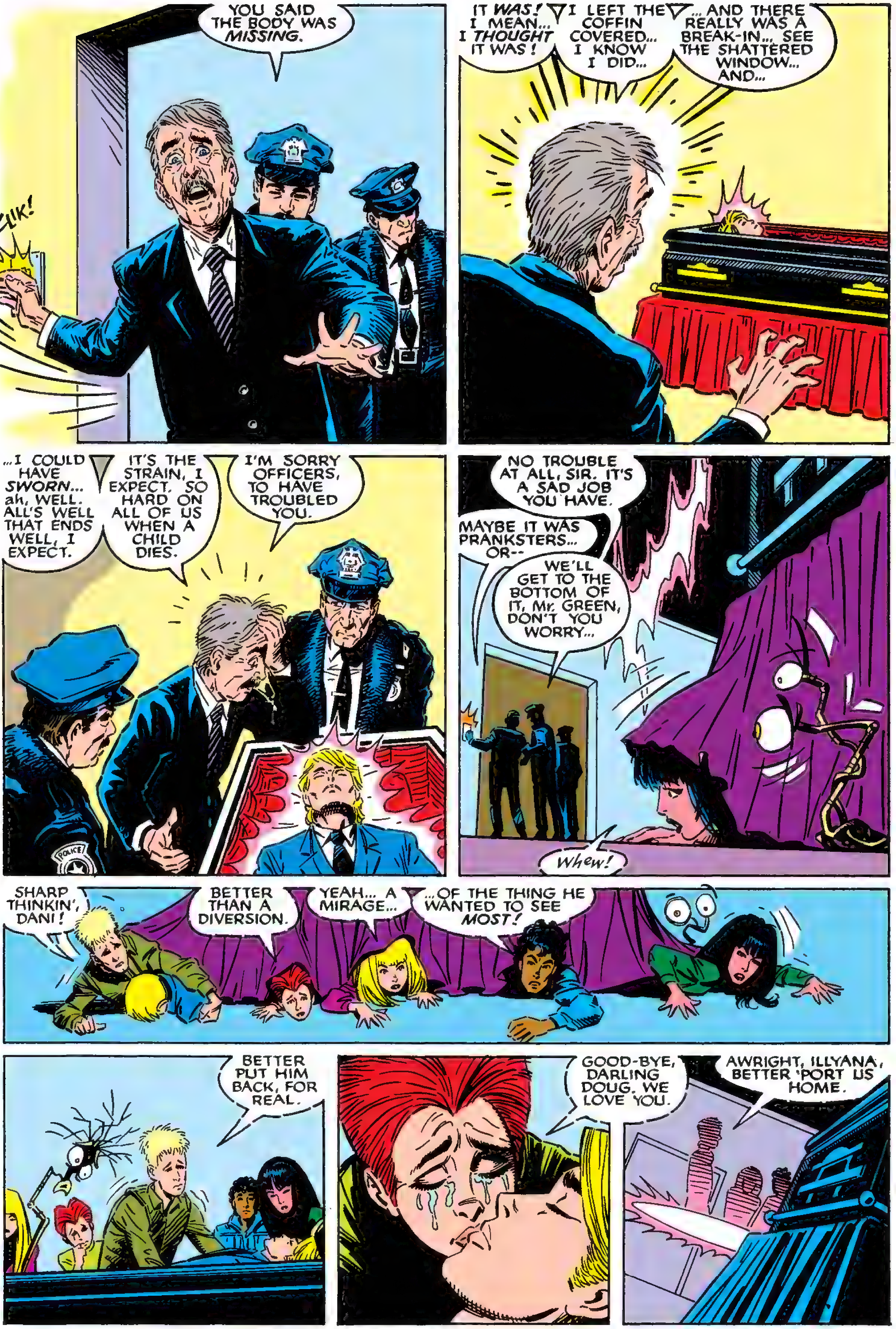

COME, FRIENDOUG! SELF WILL *SHOW* FRIENDOUG WHY FRIEND MUST *NOW* EXPERIENCE RESURRECTION OF LIVINGDEAD.
CRASH!
SELFRIEND, SELF HAS SET OFF ALARMS. MAGNETOHEADMASTER-SIR WILL BE ANGRY WITH SELF.
BRANGA-BRANGA-BRANGA!
BUT DO NOT WORRY, SELFDEAR-FRIEND.
SELF'S ENERGY WILL SOON BE *YOURS*... AND *SELF* WILL JOURNEY TO LIVINGDEAD-DIMENSION WHERE MAGNETO CANNOT FIND SELF.
BLUE RIDGE HOTEL
SEE. THERE IS SELFRIEND'S *MOTHER*. SAD... CRYING BECAUSE SELFRIEND HAS GIVEN UP ALL ENERGY.
ON YOUR WORLD, MOTHERBEINGS *LOVE* PROGENY.
SELF'S WORLD *HAS* NO MOTHER-BEINGS. AND *SIRENTITYMAGUS* MUST EVER TRY TO *KILL* PROGENY.
IS NOT A MOTHERBEING A WONDERFUL THING?
WILL NOT SELFRIEND'S *MOTHER*-BEING BE *HAPPY* TO SEE SELFRIEND *ALIVE*?
EEEEEEE
DOUG! A GHOST! NOOOO!
ALARM! ALARM!
A GHOST?
AT THE *WINDOW*! DOUG! AND A... A HORRIBLE GRINNING HEAD HOVERING OVER HIM. HORRIBLE. HORRIBLE.

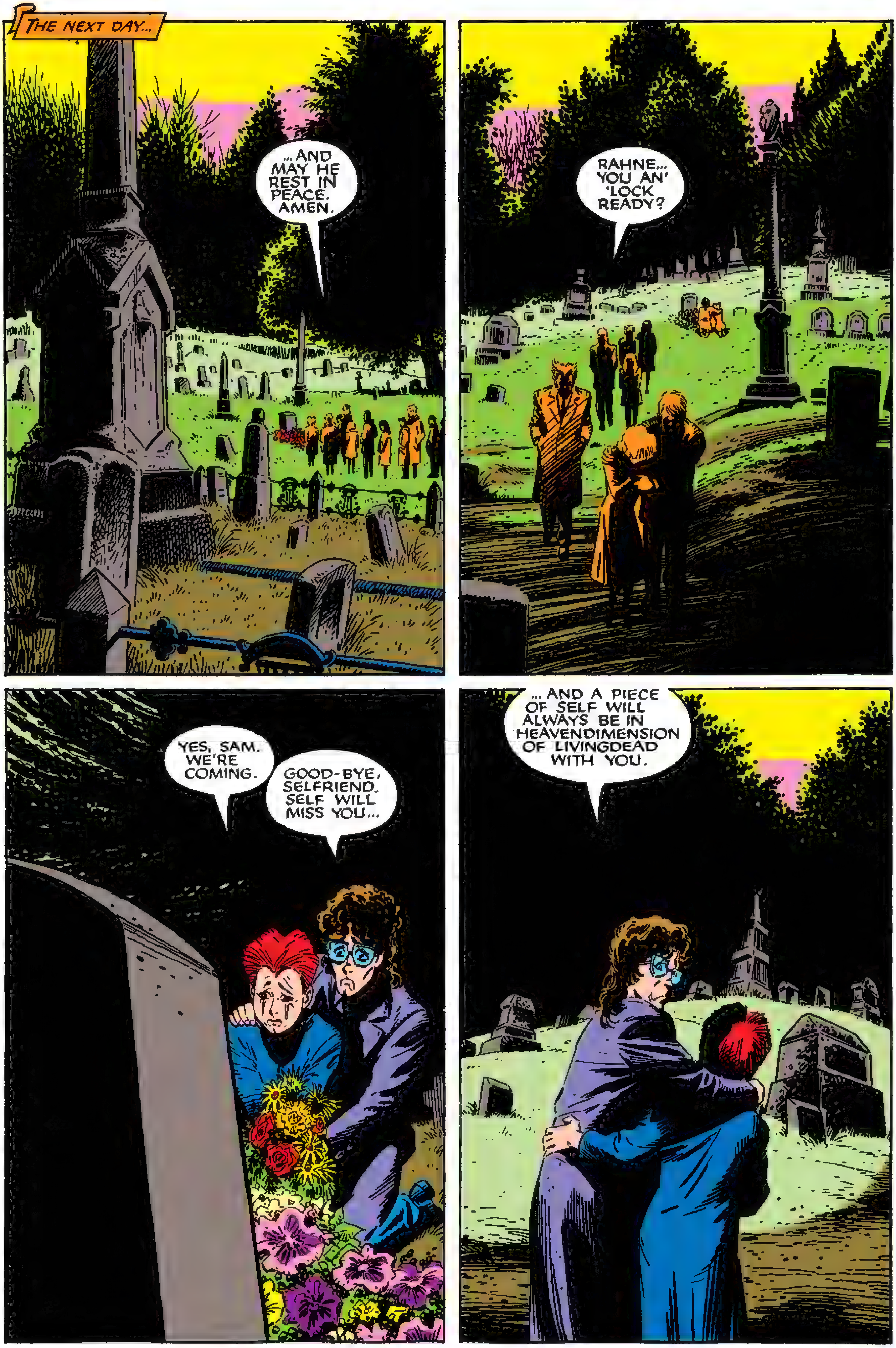

BUT... THERE'S NOTHING *THERE.*
MY MIND... IT'S COMING UNHINGED. I'M *SEEING* THINGS. I'M GOING *MAD!*
SINCERE REGRETS OFFERED, SELFRIENDOUG. *THAT* DID NOT WORK.
SELFRIEND'S MOTHERBEING WAS *NOT HAPPY.* SHE WAS *FRIGHTENED.* SELF DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.
BUT SELF *KNOWS* THAT SELFRIEND*RAHNE* MISSES FRIENDOUG... NEARLY AS MUCH AS SELF.
FRIENDRAHNE CRIED HERSELF TO SLEEP. PERHAPS WHEN DEARFRIEND SEES *HER...*
TAP TAP TAP
WHAT IS IT...?
DOUG?
DOUG!
YOU *AREN'T* DEAD, YOU *AREN'T!*
IT *WASN'T* REAL!
IT WAS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING...
...SOME TERRIBLE MISTAKE, WASN'T IT...?
DOUG...?

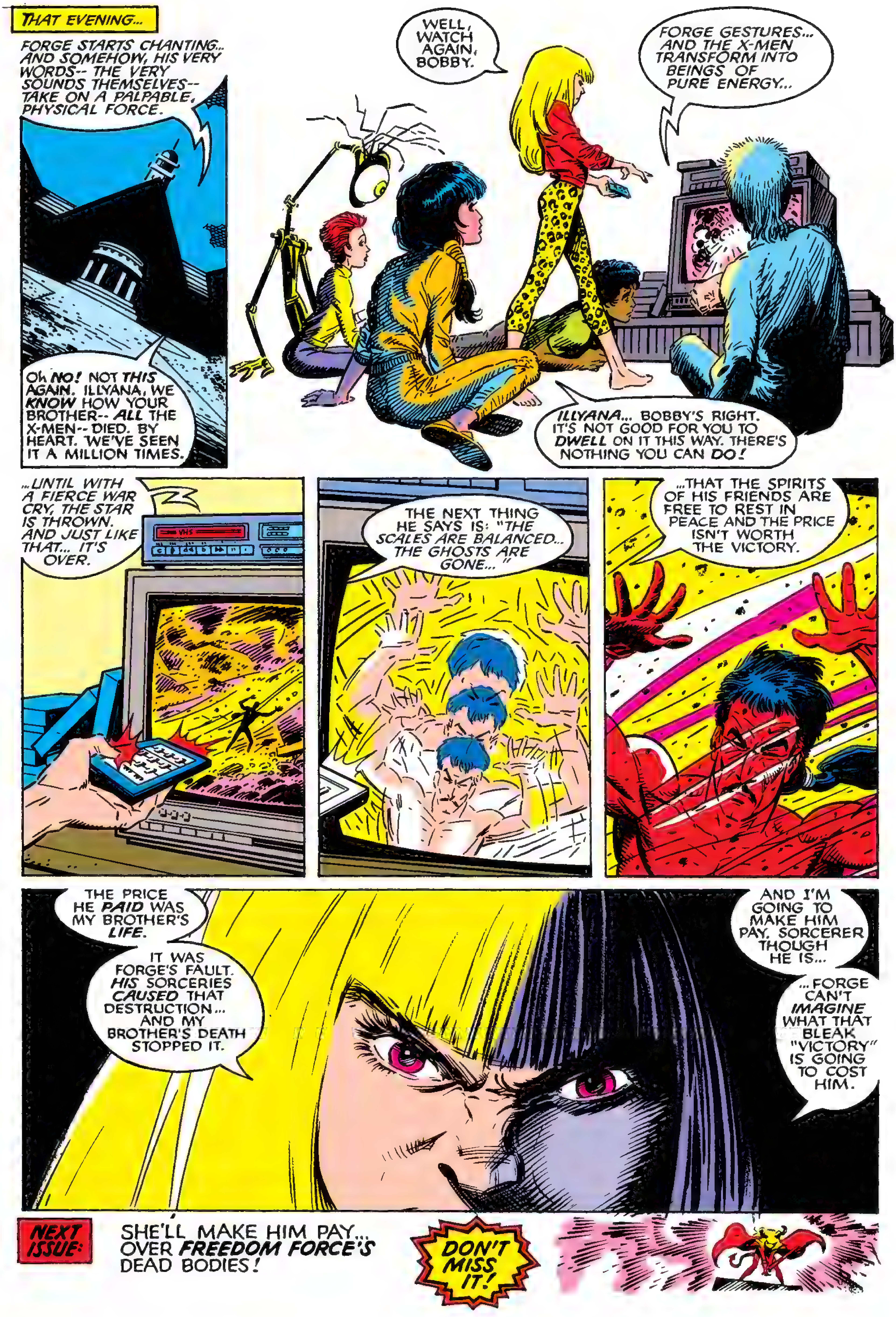

EEEE!
SELFRIENDRAHNE! *NO!* PLEASE! DON'T!
SELFRIENDOUG'S *MOTHER*BEING SCREAMED... AND SELF WAS FRIGHTENED.
DOUG'S... MOTHER...?
WARLOCK, IS THAT *YOU?* WITH DOUG.
YOU'VE STOLEN DOUG'S *BODY.*
Oh... NO. YOU DIDN'T. AND YOU TOOK DOUG TO SEE HIS MOTHER... LIKE THIS...?
RAHNE! *RAHNE!* WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
IS THAT... *DOUG?*
WHAT'S *HE* DOIN' HERE?
YOU *STOLE* HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW *COULD* YOU, WARLOCK?
WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE *DOING?*
BUT... SELFRIENDS... PEOPLE SCREAM... AND FRIENDS ARE ANGRY AND... SELF DOES NOT UNDERSTAND.
SELF WANTED DEARESTFRIEND*DOUG* TO EXPERIENCE RESURRECTION OF LIVING*DEAD*ENTITIES FROM *HEAVEN*DIMENSION SO SELF *TOOK* DEARFRIEND*DOUG* TO SHOW HIM THAT PEOPLE LOVED HIM AND WANTED HIM ALIVE SO THAT HE WOULD TAKE SELF'S LIF*ENERGY* AND--


LISTEN, RAHNE, WARLOCK'S JUST DOING WHAT *YOU* WERE TRYING TO DO IN THE DANGER ROOM EARLIER.
HE'S TRYING TO BRING DOUG BACK! HE'S TRYING TO *SAVE* HIM!
HE... HE IS...?
I SEE... I GUESS... OH, WARLOCK, YOU FEEL AS BAD AS I DO, DON'T YOU?
BUT, WARLOCK... IT WON'T *WORK*. *NOTHING* WILL WORK. YOU'VE MADE ME REALIZE... HE *IS* DEAD!
AND ALL THE WISHING OR PRETENDING IN THE WORLD CAN'T MAKE IT OTHERWISE.
YOU CAN'T CARRY HIM *AROUND* LIKE THAT, WARLOCK. YOU HAVE TO PUT HIM *BACK*.
NO! MEN WILL PUT SELFDEARESTFRIEND IN A DARK *HOLE!*
SELFRIEND WILL BE FRIGHTENED. SELFRIENDS NEVER SEE DEARFRIEND AGAIN.
WARLOCK, HE'S *DEAD*. AND WE *HAVE* TO BURY HIS BODY.
BECAUSE, WARLOCK... WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IS ONLY A *BODY*. A... A *SHELL*. WHATEVER MADE IT *REALLY* DOUG IS GONE AWAY.
IT'S NOT *JUST* THE WAX AND EMBALMING STUFF THAT MAKES IT NOT LOOK OR SEEM LIKE HIM ANY MORE!
IT'S JUST A SHELL WE'RE BURYING. DOUG... DOUG'S SAFE IN HEAVEN.
GIVE IT BACK, WARLOCK. PLEASE, LET HIM GO.


SOON...
AH HATE TA BREAK THIS UP, BUT WE GOTTA GET DOUG BACK.
THEY'RE BURYING HIM TOMORROW AN' SOONER 'R LATER, SOMEBODY'S GONNA NOTICE HE'S MISSING.
ALL RIGHT. WE'RE READY NOW... AREN'T WE, 'LOCK?
I'M GONNA 'PORT US DIRECTLY...
...TO THE ROOM WITH THE COFFIN AND--
SSSH! Somebody's there.
--AWAKENED BY THE ALARM! THERE'S BEEN A BREAK-IN, OFFICERS...
...AND THE BODY OF DOUG RAMSEY, THE LAD FROM XAVIER'S SCHOOL, IS GONE.
YOU SURE?
CERTAINLY. NEVER HAVE MY EYES SEEN THE LIKE IN TWENTY YEARS OF--
Oh, NO!
WE BETTER HURRY!
GET HIM INTO THE COFFIN.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME.
HERE THEY COME.
THEY'LL SEE.
WHAT'LL WE DO--?
SOMEBODY, CREATE A DIVERSION! QUICK!


YOU SAID THE BODY WAS *MISSING*.
CLIK!
IT *WAS!* I MEAN... I *THOUGHT* IT WAS!
I LEFT THE COFFIN COVERED... I KNOW I DID...
... AND THERE REALLY WAS A BREAK-IN... SEE THE SHATTERED WINDOW... AND...
...I COULD HAVE *SWORN*... ah, WELL. ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, I EXPECT.
IT'S THE STRAIN, I EXPECT. SO HARD ON ALL OF US WHEN A CHILD DIES.
I'M SORRY OFFICERS, TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU.
NO TROUBLE AT ALL, SIR. IT'S A SAD JOB YOU HAVE.
MAYBE IT WAS PRANKSTERS... OR--
WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT, Mr. GREEN, DON'T YOU WORRY...
Whew!
SHARP THINKIN', DANI!
BETTER THAN A DIVERSION.
YEAH... A MIRAGE...
...OF THE THING HE WANTED TO SEE *MOST!*
BETTER PUT HIM BACK, FOR REAL.
GOOD-BYE, DARLING DOUG. WE LOVE YOU.
AWRIGHT, ILLYANA, BETTER 'PORT US HOME.


THE NEXT DAY...
...AND MAY HE REST IN PEACE. AMEN.
RAHNE... YOU AN' 'LOCK READY?
YES, SAM. WE'RE COMING.
GOOD-BYE, SELFRIEND. SELF WILL MISS YOU...
...AND A PIECE OF SELF WILL ALWAYS BE IN HEAVENDIMENSION OF LIVINGDEAD WITH YOU.


THAT EVENING...
FORGE STARTS CHANTING... AND SOMEHOW, HIS VERY WORDS-- THE VERY SOUNDS THEMSELVES-- TAKE ON A PALPABLE, PHYSICAL FORCE.
Oh NO! NOT THIS AGAIN. ILLYANA, WE KNOW HOW YOUR BROTHER-- ALL THE X-MEN-- DIED. BY HEART. WE'VE SEEN IT A MILLION TIMES.
WELL, WATCH AGAIN, BOBBY.
FORGE GESTURES... AND THE X-MEN TRANSFORM INTO BEINGS OF PURE ENERGY...
ILLYANA... BOBBY'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO DWELL ON IT THIS WAY. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
...UNTIL WITH A FIERCE WAR CRY, THE STAR IS THROWN. AND JUST LIKE THAT... IT'S OVER.
VHS
THE NEXT THING HE SAYS IS: "THE SCALES ARE BALANCED... THE GHOSTS ARE GONE..."
...THAT THE SPIRITS OF HIS FRIENDS ARE FREE TO REST IN PEACE AND THE PRICE ISN'T WORTH THE VICTORY.
THE PRICE HE PAID WAS MY BROTHER'S LIFE.
IT WAS FORGE'S FAULT. HIS SORCERIES CAUSED THAT DESTRUCTION... AND MY BROTHER'S DEATH STOPPED IT.
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM PAY, SORCERER THOUGH HE IS...
...FORGE CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT BLEAK "VICTORY" IS GOING TO COST HIM.
NEXT ISSUE:
SHE'LL MAKE HIM PAY... OVER FREEDOM FORCE'S DEAD BODIES!
DON'T MISS IT!

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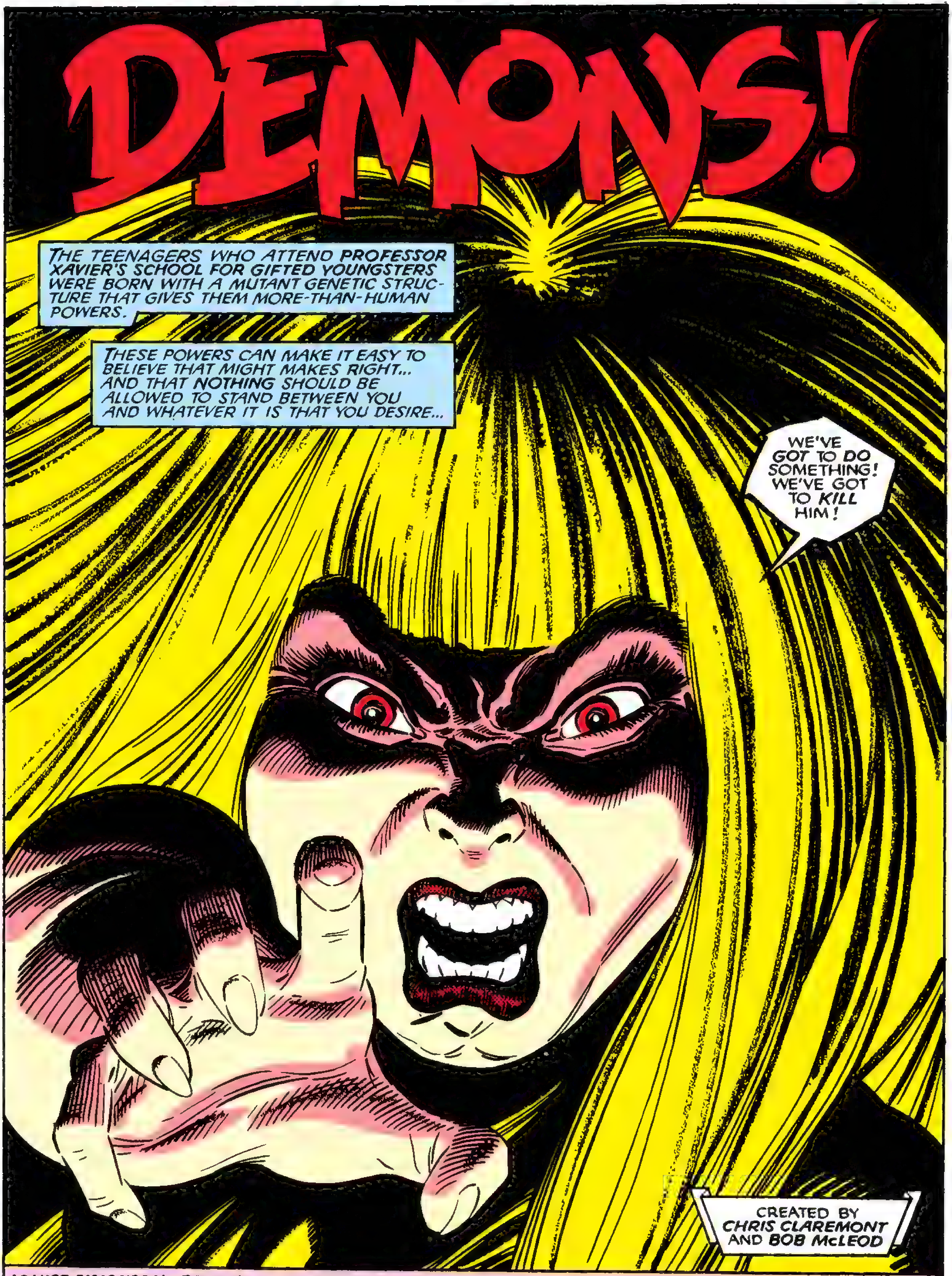
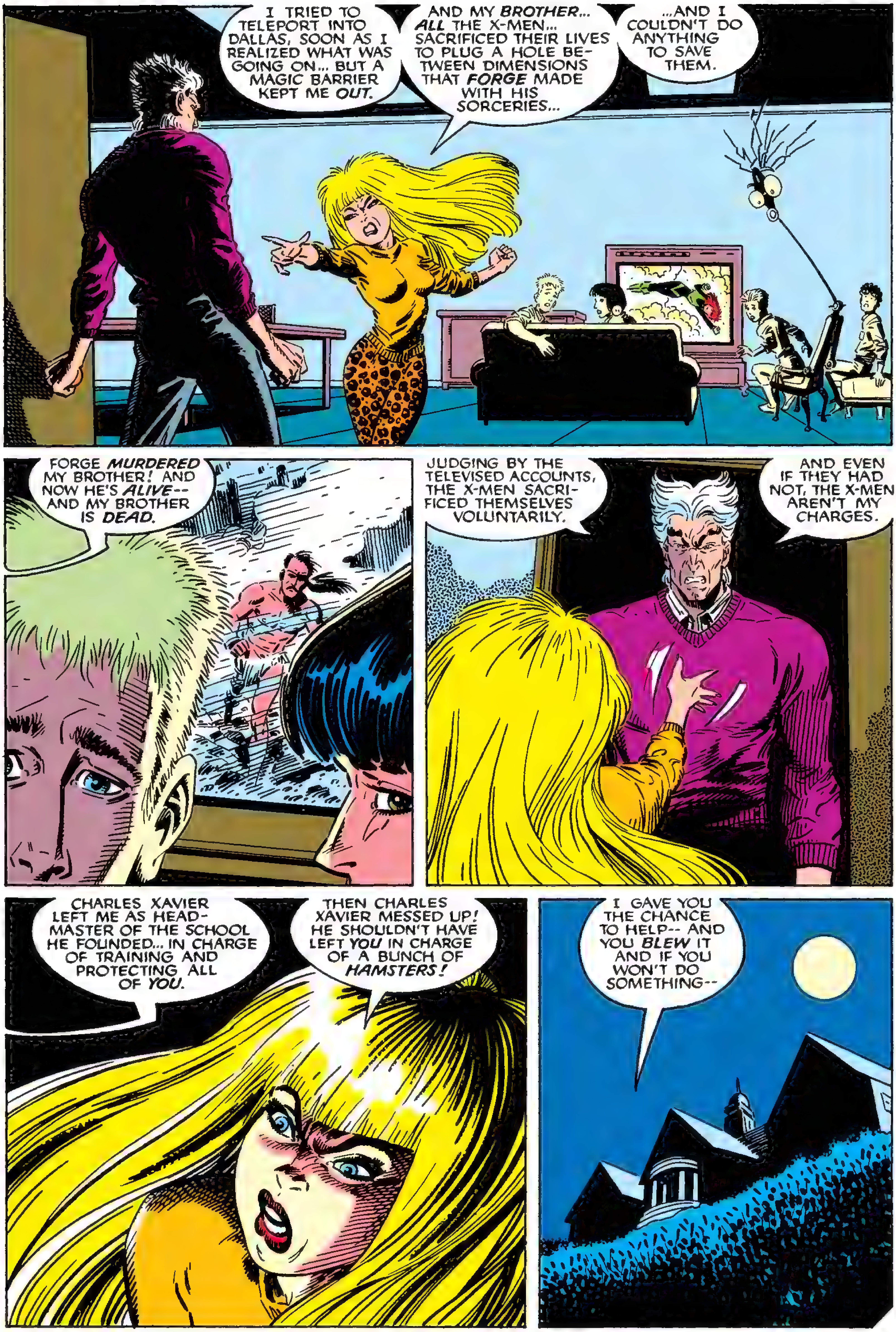
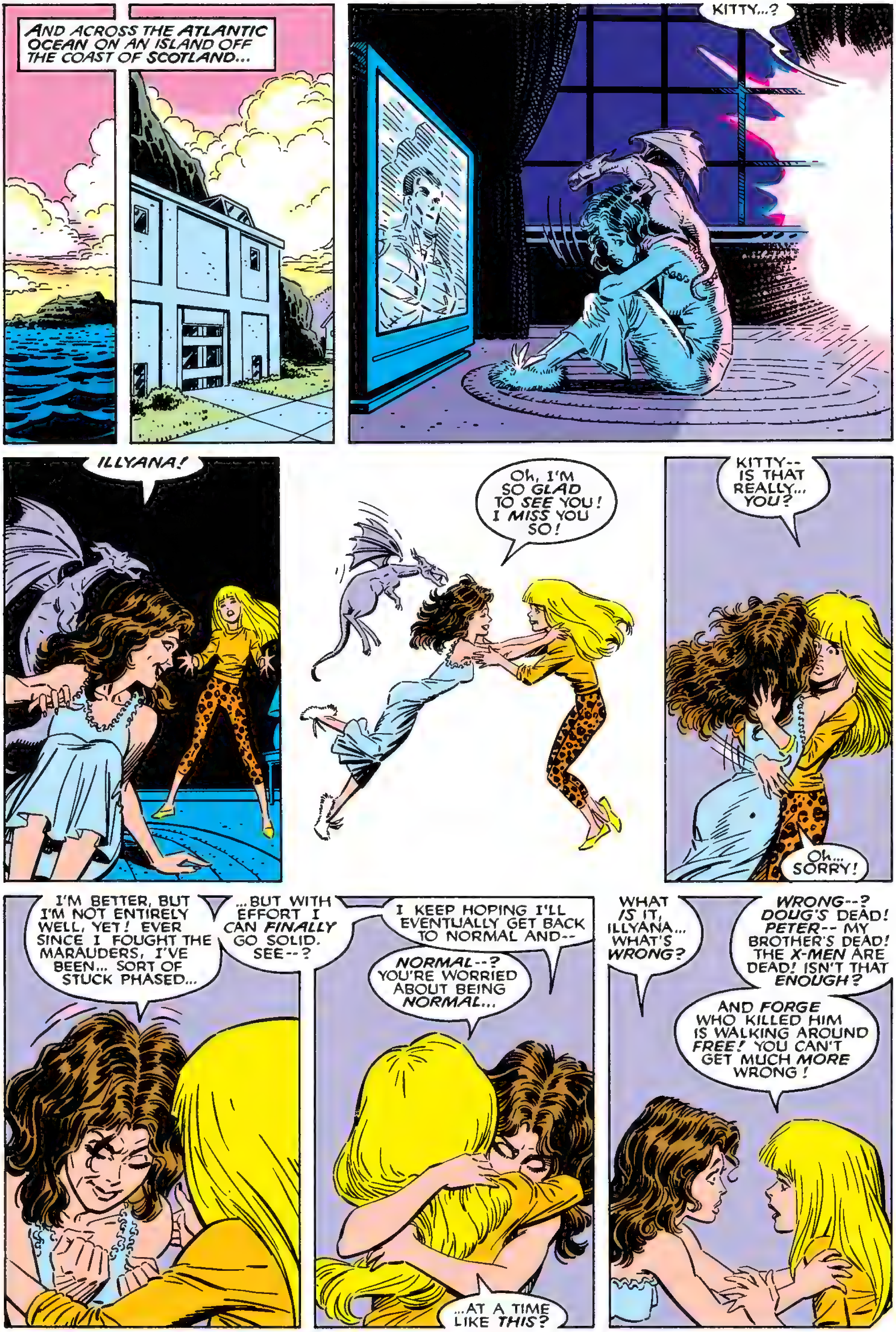
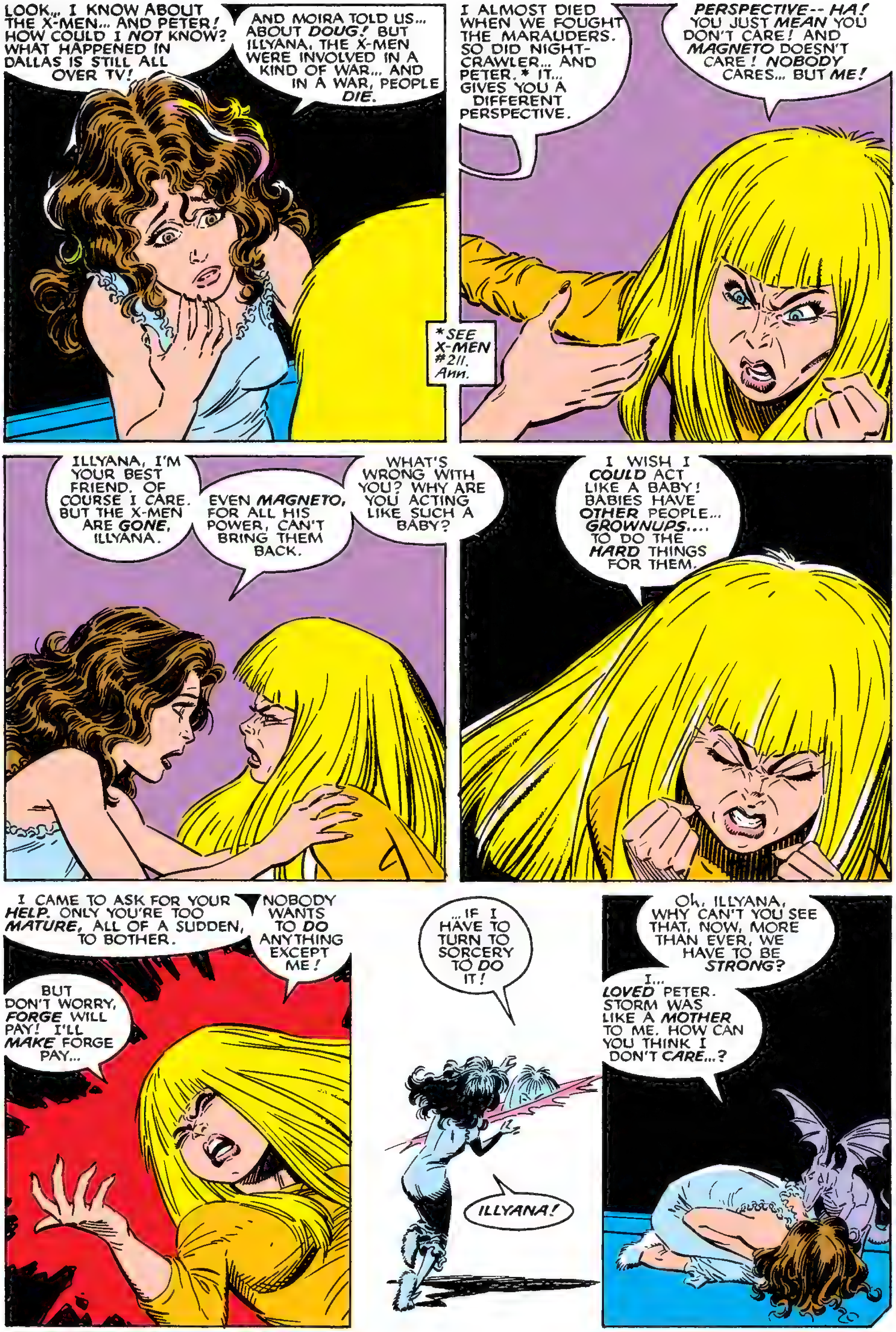

THE TEENAGERS WHO ATTEND PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS WERE BORN WITH A MUTANT GENETIC STRUCTURE THAT GIVES THEM MORE-THAN-HUMAN POWERS.
THESE POWERS CAN MAKE IT EASY TO BELIEVE THAT MIGHT MAKES RIGHT... AND THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAND BETWEEN YOU AND WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU DESIRE...
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM!
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD

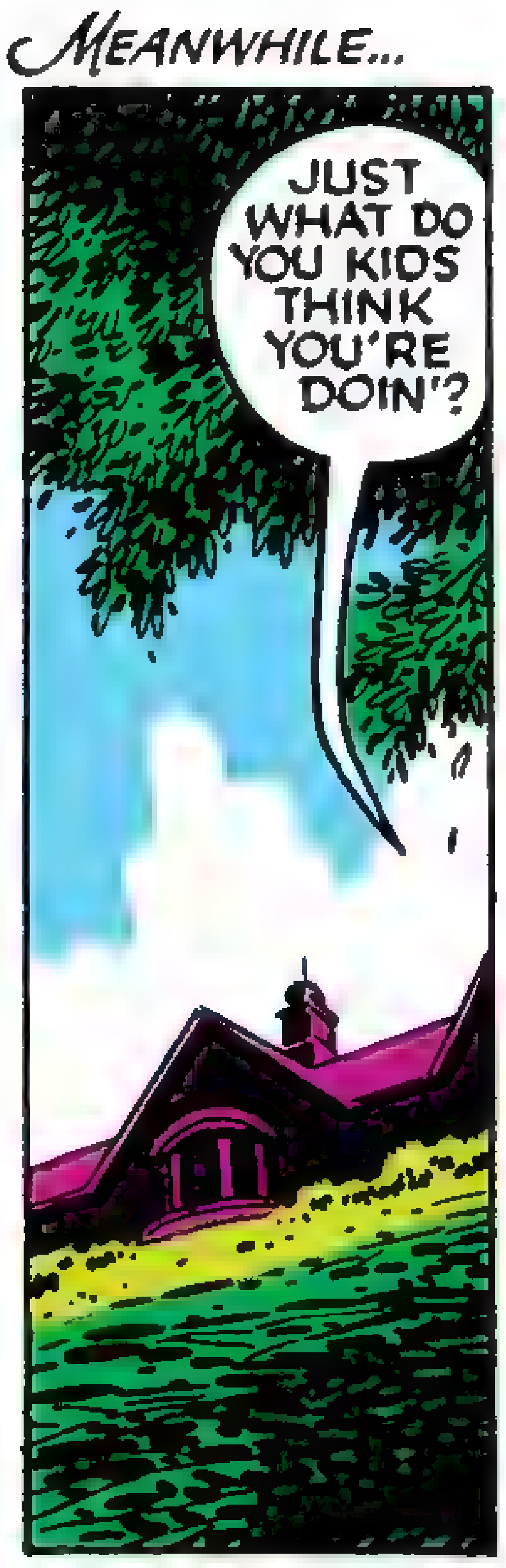
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER | BRET BLEVINS PENCILER | TERRY AUSTIN INKER | TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST | ANN NOCENTI EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

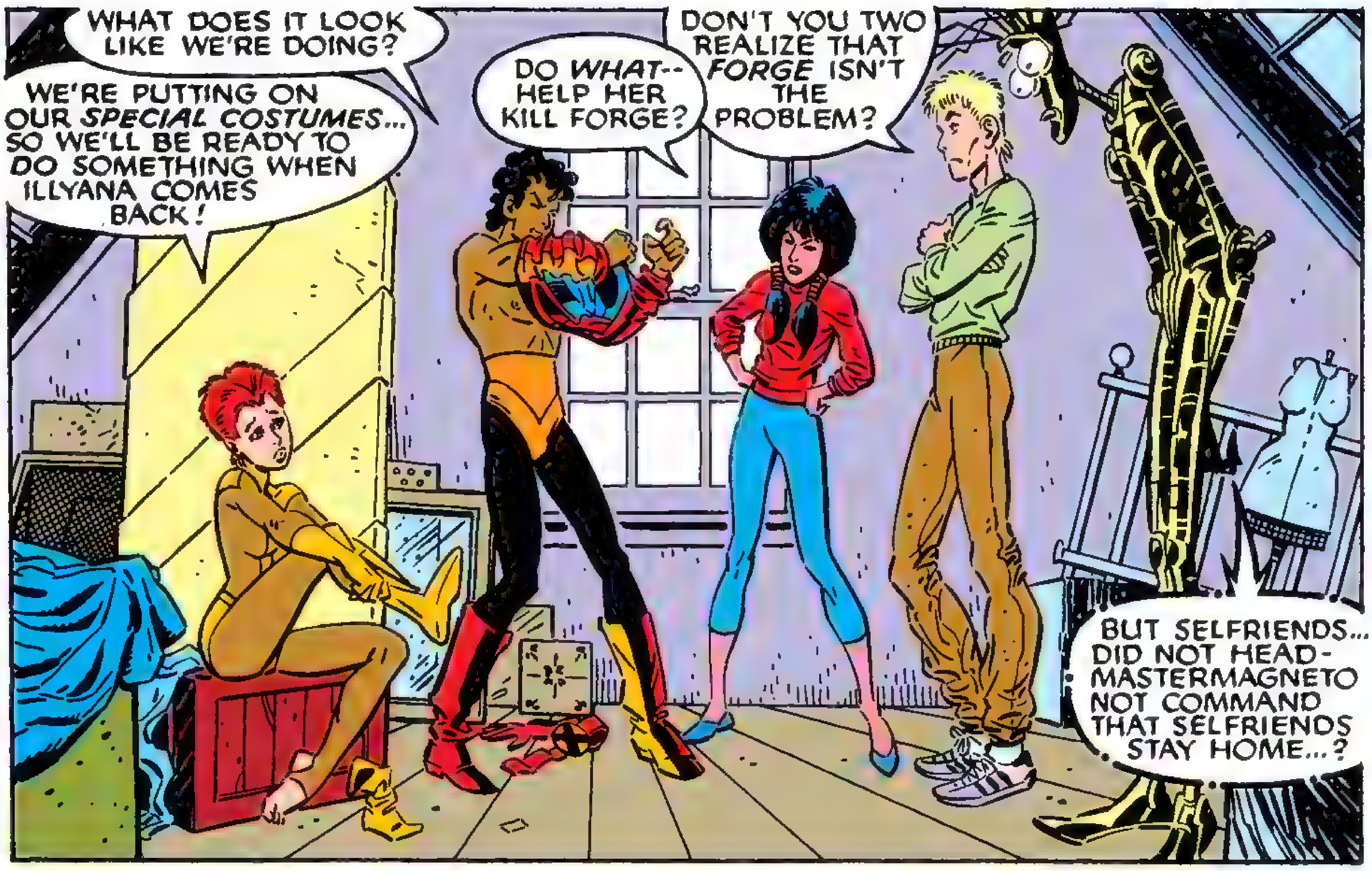

I TRIED TO TELEPORT INTO DALLAS, SOON AS I REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON... BUT A MAGIC BARRIER KEPT ME *OUT.*
AND MY *BROTHER*... *ALL* THE X-MEN... SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO PLUG A HOLE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS THAT *FORGE* MADE WITH HIS SORCERIES...
...AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE THEM.
FORGE *MURDERED* MY BROTHER*!* AND NOW HE'S *ALIVE*-- AND MY BROTHER IS *DEAD.*
JUDGING BY THE TELEVISED ACCOUNTS, THE X-MEN SACRIFICED THEMSELVES VOLUNTARILY.
AND EVEN IF THEY HAD NOT, THE X-MEN AREN'T MY CHARGES.
CHARLES XAVIER LEFT ME AS HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL HE FOUNDED... IN CHARGE OF TRAINING AND PROTECTING ALL OF *YOU.*
THEN CHARLES XAVIER MESSED UP*!* HE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT *YOU* IN CHARGE OF A BUNCH OF *HAMSTERS!*
I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE TO HELP-- AND YOU *BLEW* IT AND IF YOU WON'T DO SOMETHING--

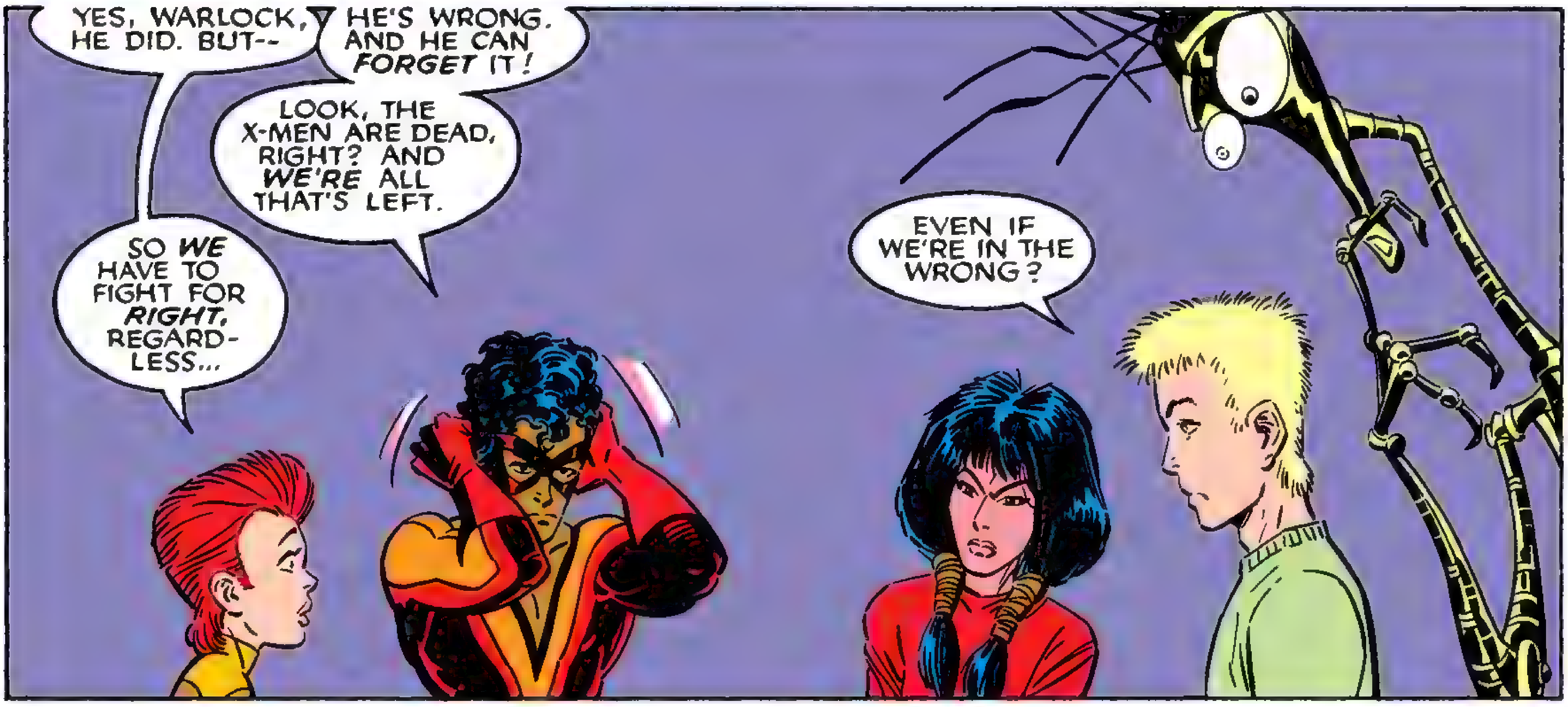
--I WILL!
SELFRIEND-ILLYANA...!
No!
DON'T!
ENOUGH! AS MUCH AS I DETEST DOING SO, I WILL REITERATE.
YOU STUDENTS WILL NO LONGER USE YOUR POWERS OR LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT PERMISSION... IS THAT CLEAR--?
OBEY ME VOLUNTARILY--OR I'LL MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY.
SLAM!
ILLYANA'S GONE REALLY NUTS ON THIS.
NOT TO MENTION MAGNETO!
I DON'T THINK FORGE IS EVIL, EXACTLY.
WHERE DID SELFRIEND-ILLYANA TELEPORT TO?
NOT TO FIGHT FORGE ALONE ... I HOPE!
WHAT'D MAGNETO MEAN-- HE'LL MAKE CERTAIN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY?

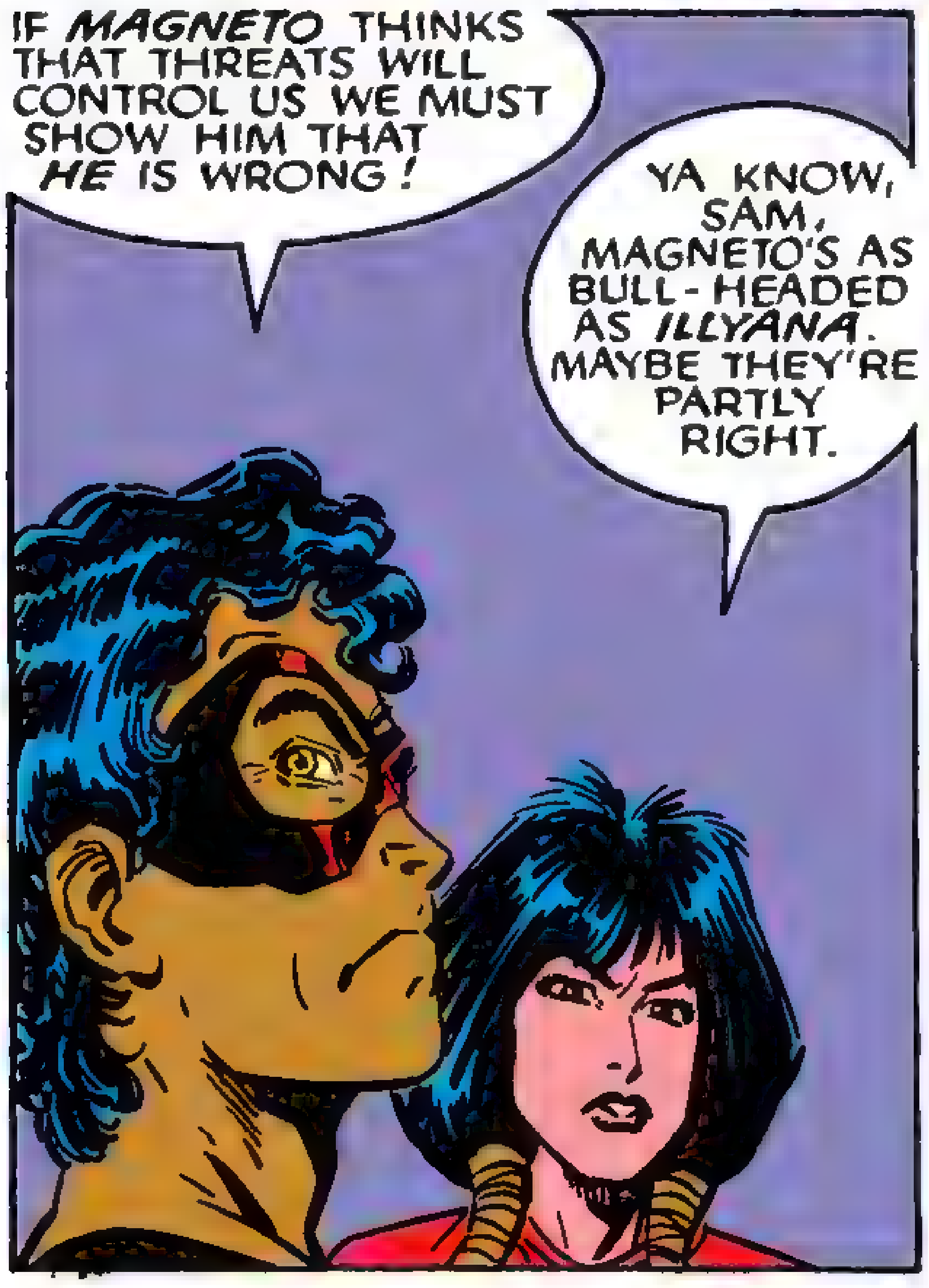

AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN ON AN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF SCOTLAND...
KITTY...?
ILLYANA!
Oh, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! I MISS YOU SO!
KITTY-- IS THAT REALLY... YOU?
Oh... SORRY!
I'M BETTER, BUT I'M NOT ENTIRELY WELL, YET! EVER SINCE I FOUGHT THE MARAUDERS, I'VE BEEN... SORT OF STUCK PHASED...
...BUT WITH EFFORT I CAN FINALLY GO SOLID. SEE--?
I KEEP HOPING I'LL EVENTUALLY GET BACK TO NORMAL AND--
NORMAL--? YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING NORMAL...
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHAT IS IT, ILLYANA... WHAT'S WRONG?
WRONG--? DOUG'S DEAD! PETER-- MY BROTHER'S DEAD! THE X-MEN ARE DEAD! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
AND FORGE WHO KILLED HIM IS WALKING AROUND FREE! YOU CAN'T GET MUCH MORE WRONG!

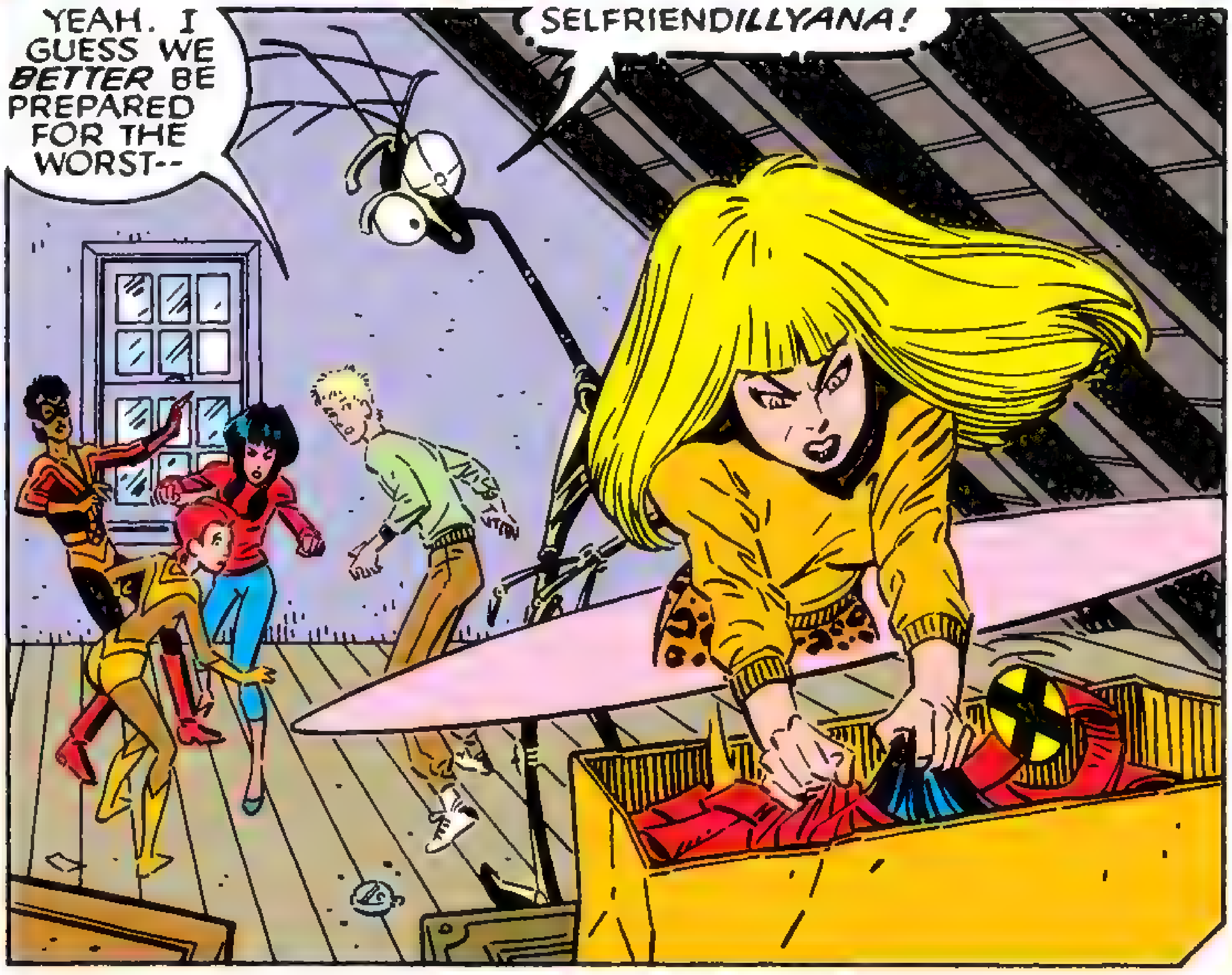

LOOK... I KNOW ABOUT THE X-MEN... AND PETER! HOW COULD I *NOT* KNOW? WHAT HAPPENED IN DALLAS IS STILL ALL OVER TV!
AND MOIRA TOLD US... ABOUT *DOUG!* BUT ILLYANA, THE X-MEN WERE INVOLVED IN A KIND OF WAR... AND IN A WAR, PEOPLE *DIE*.
I ALMOST DIED WHEN WE FOUGHT THE MARAUDERS. SO DID NIGHTCRAWLER... AND PETER.* IT... GIVES YOU A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.
*SEE X-MEN #211. Ann.
PERSPECTIVE-- HA! YOU JUST *MEAN* YOU DON'T CARE! AND *MAGNETO* DOESN'T CARE! *NOBODY* CARES... BUT *ME!*
ILLYANA, I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND. OF COURSE I CARE. BUT THE X-MEN ARE *GONE*, ILLYANA.
EVEN *MAGNETO*, FOR ALL HIS POWER, CAN'T BRING THEM BACK.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE SUCH A BABY?
I WISH I *COULD* ACT LIKE A BABY! BABIES HAVE *OTHER* PEOPLE... *GROWNUPS....* TO DO THE *HARD* THINGS FOR THEM.
I CAME TO ASK FOR YOUR *HELP*. ONLY YOU'RE TOO *MATURE*, ALL OF A SUDDEN, TO BOTHER.
NOBODY WANTS TO *DO* ANYTHING EXCEPT ME!
BUT DON'T WORRY, *FORGE* WILL PAY! I'LL *MAKE* FORGE PAY...
...IF I HAVE TO TURN TO SORCERY TO *DO* IT!
ILLYANA!
Oh, ILLYANA, WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT, NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO BE *STRONG?*
I... *LOVED* PETER. STORM WAS LIKE A *MOTHER* TO ME. HOW CAN YOU THINK I DON'T *CARE...?*

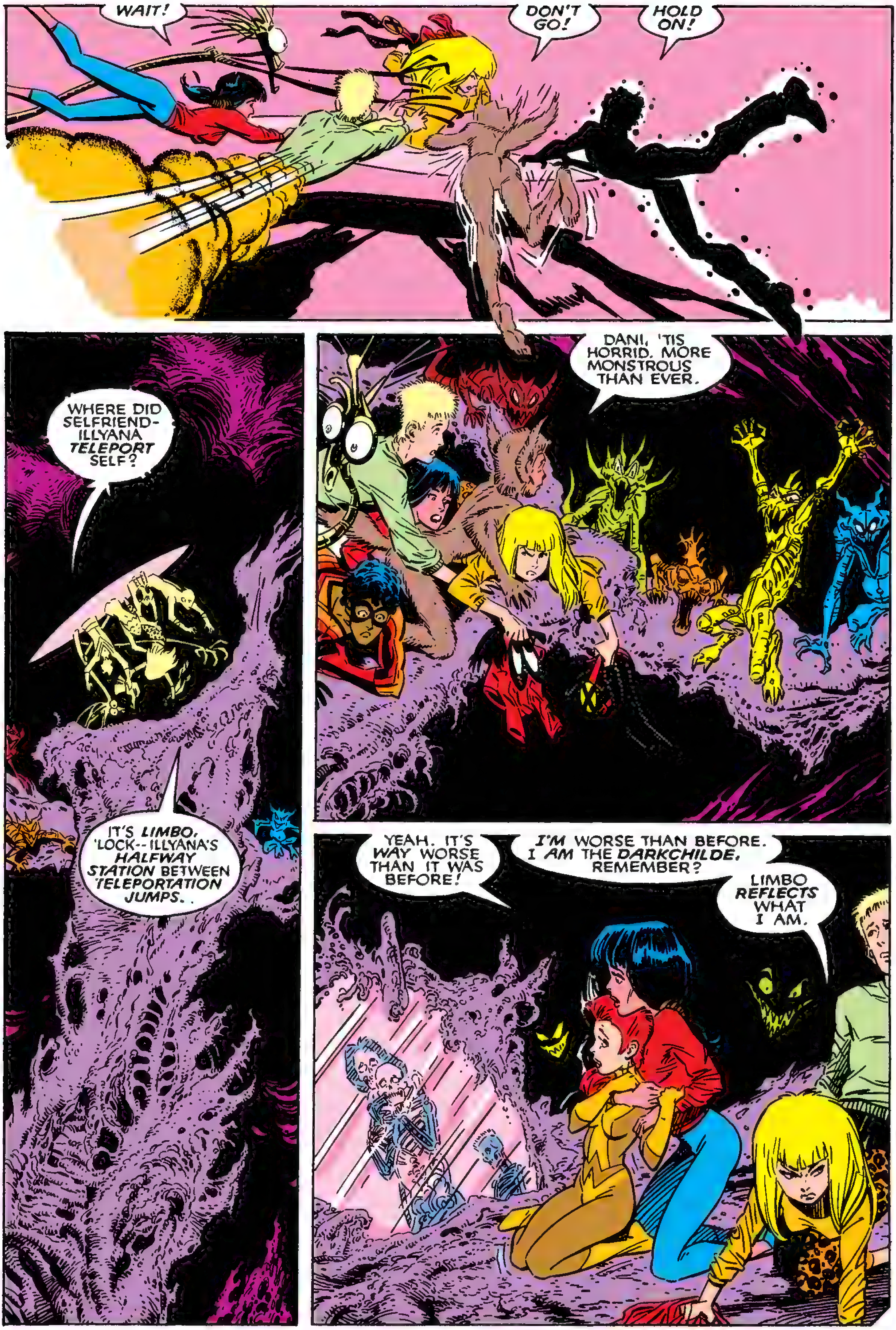

MEANWHILE...
JUST WHAT DO YOU KIDS THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?

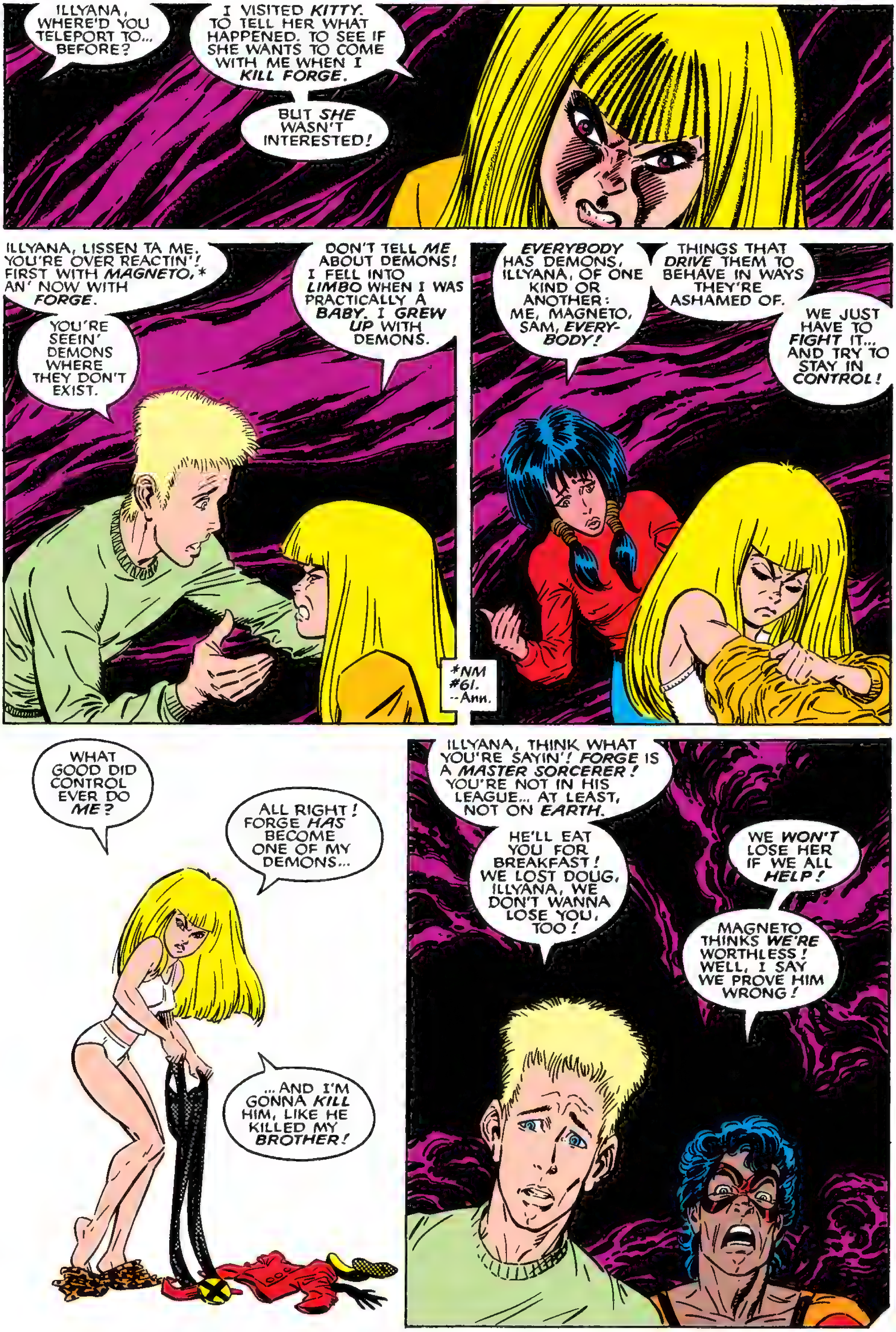

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE DOING?
WE'RE PUTTING ON OUR *SPECIAL COSTUMES*... SO WE'LL BE READY TO *DO* SOMETHING WHEN ILLYANA COMES BACK!
DO *WHAT*-- HELP HER KILL FORGE?
DON'T YOU TWO REALIZE THAT *FORGE* ISN'T THE PROBLEM?
BUT SELFRIENDS... DID NOT HEAD-MASTERMAGNETO NOT COMMAND THAT SELFRIENDS STAY HOME...?

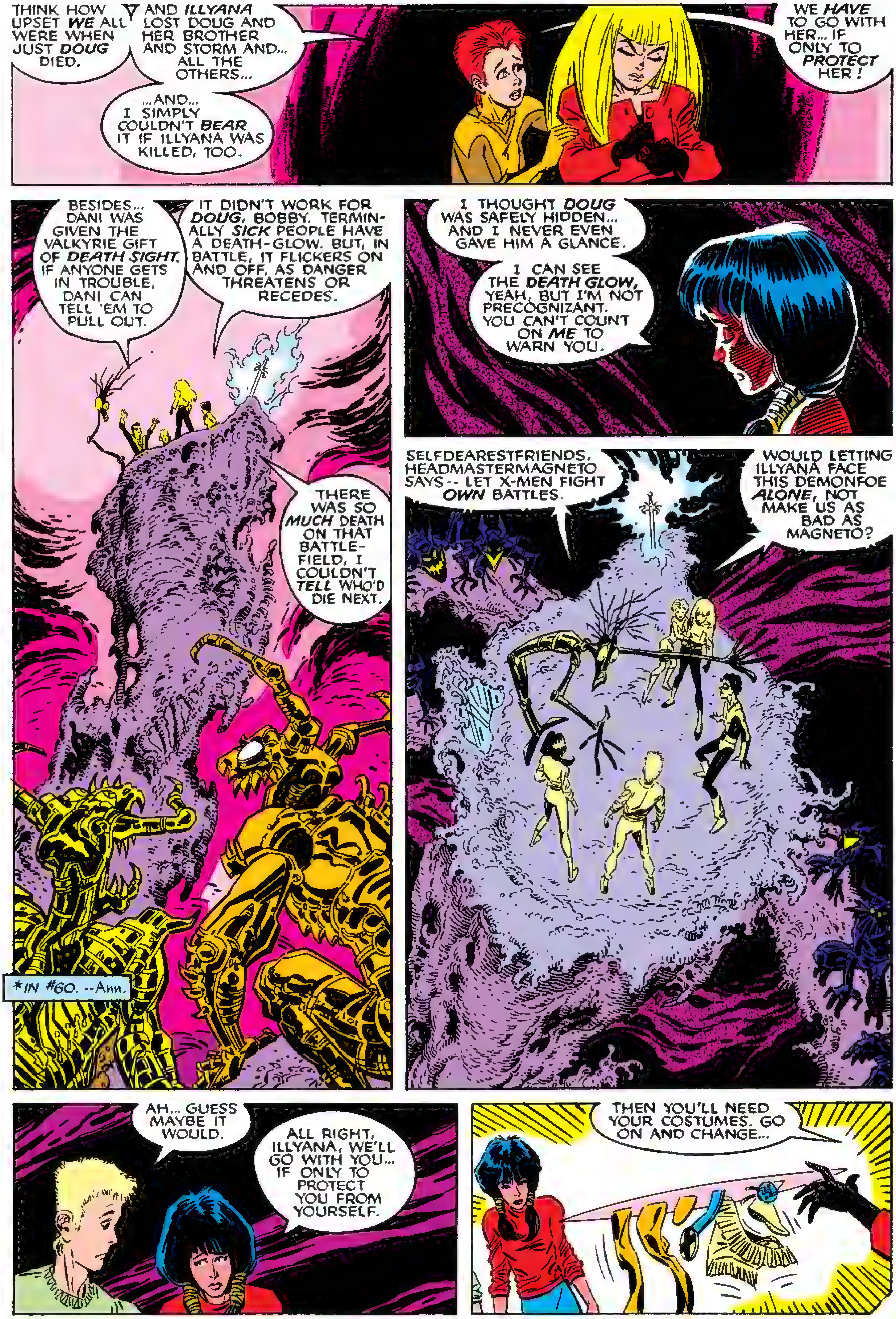

YES, WARLOCK, HE DID. BUT--
HE'S WRONG. AND HE CAN *FORGET* IT!
LOOK, THE X-MEN ARE DEAD, RIGHT? AND *WE'RE* ALL THAT'S LEFT.
SO *WE* HAVE TO FIGHT FOR *RIGHT*, REGARDLESS...
EVEN IF WE'RE IN THE WRONG?

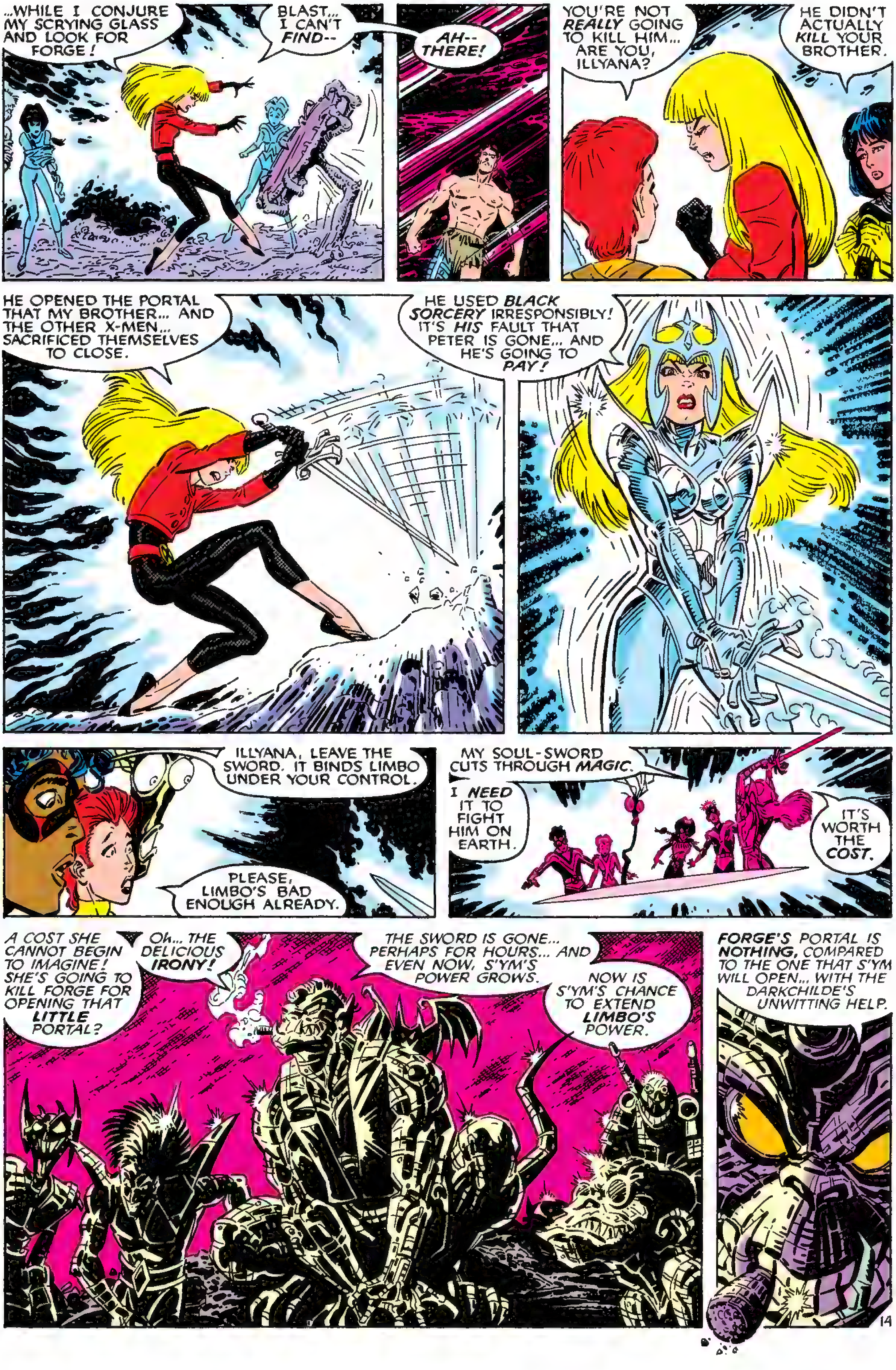

IF *MAGNETO* THINKS THAT THREATS WILL CONTROL US WE MUST SHOW HIM THAT *HE* IS WRONG!
YA KNOW, SAM, MAGNETO'S AS BULL-HEADED AS *ILLYANA*. MAYBE THEY'RE PARTLY RIGHT.

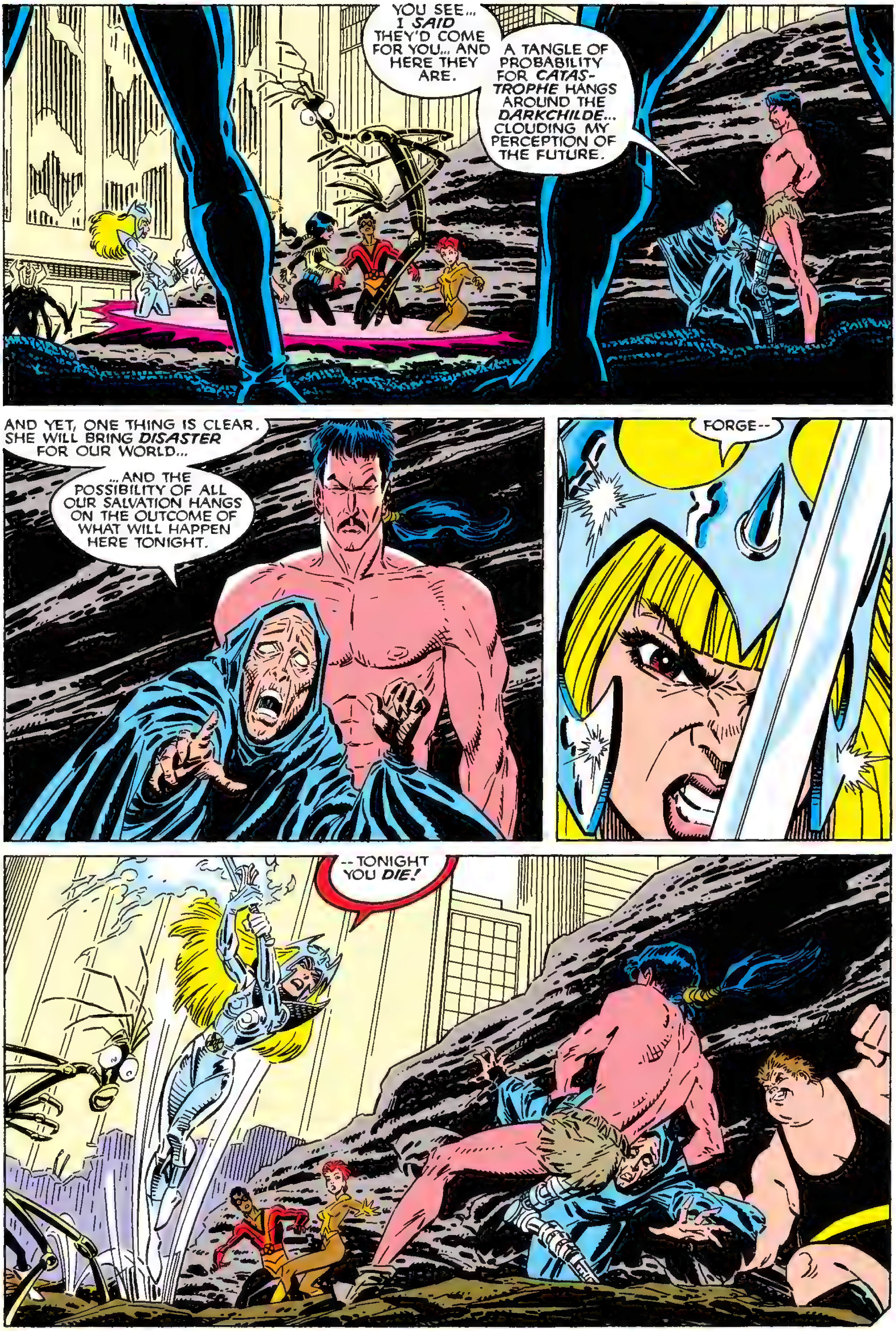

YEAH. I GUESS WE *BETTER* BE PREPARED FOR THE WORST--
SELFRIEND*ILLYANA!*

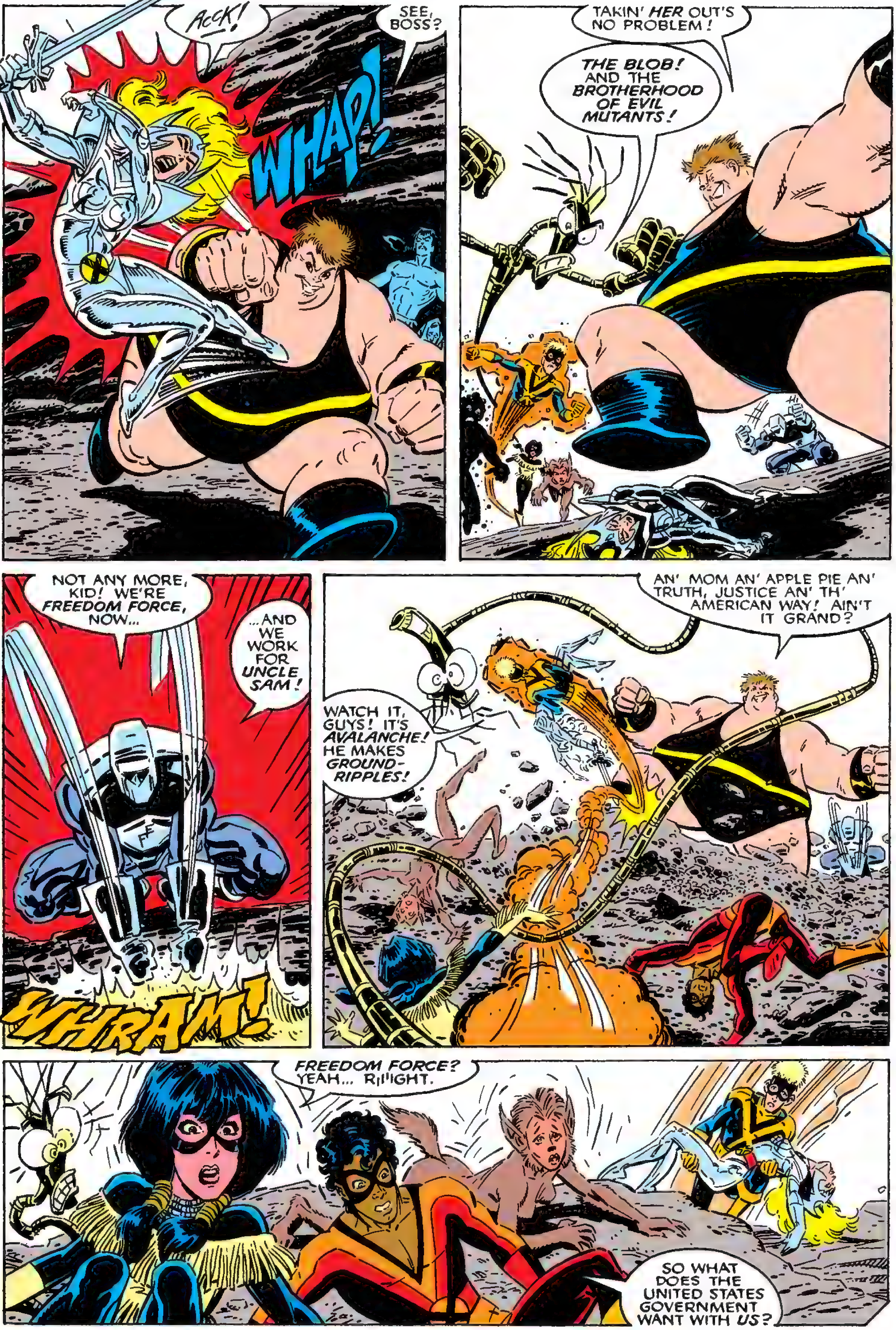

WAIT!
DON'T GO!
HOLD ON!
WHERE DID SELFRIEND-ILLYANA *TELEPORT* SELF?
IT'S *LIMBO*, 'LOCK--ILLYANA'S *HALFWAY STATION* BETWEEN *TELEPORTATION JUMPS*..
DANI, 'TIS HORRID. MORE MONSTROUS THAN EVER.
YEAH. IT'S *WAY* WORSE THAN IT WAS BEFORE!
I'M WORSE THAN BEFORE. I *AM* THE *DARKCHILDE*, REMEMBER?
LIMBO *REFLECTS* WHAT I AM.

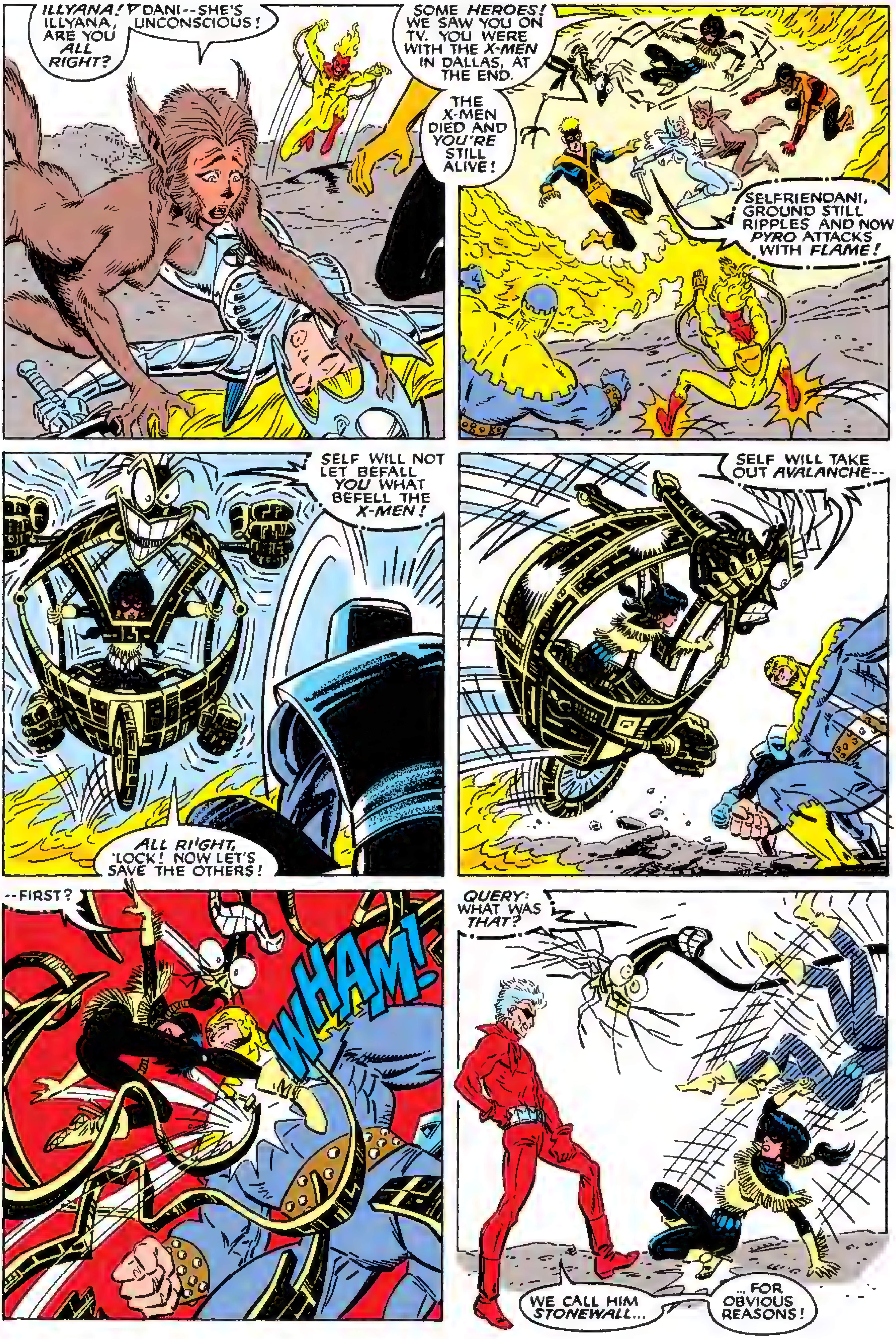

ILLYANA, WHERE'D YOU TELEPORT TO... BEFORE?
I VISITED *KITTY*. TO TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED. TO SEE IF SHE WANTS TO COME WITH ME WHEN I ***KILL FORGE***.
BUT *SHE* WASN'T INTERESTED!
ILLYANA, LISSEN TA ME. YOU'RE OVER REACTIN'! FIRST WITH *MAGNETO*,* AN' NOW WITH ***FORGE***.
YOU'RE SEEIN' DEMONS WHERE THEY DON'T EXIST.
DON'T TELL *ME* ABOUT DEMONS! I FELL INTO ***LIMBO*** WHEN I WAS PRACTICALLY A ***BABY***. I ***GREW UP*** WITH DEMONS.
*NM #61. --Ann.
EVERYBODY HAS DEMONS, ILLYANA, OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER: ME, MAGNETO, SAM, ***EVERY-BODY!***
THINGS THAT ***DRIVE*** THEM TO BEHAVE IN WAYS THEY'RE ASHAMED OF.
WE JUST HAVE TO ***FIGHT*** IT... AND TRY TO ***STAY IN CONTROL!***
WHAT GOOD DID CONTROL EVER DO ***ME?***
ALL RIGHT! FORGE ***HAS*** BECOME ONE OF MY DEMONS...
...AND I'M GONNA ***KILL*** HIM, LIKE HE KILLED MY ***BROTHER!***
ILLYANA, THINK WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'! ***FORGE*** IS A ***MASTER SORCERER!*** YOU'RE NOT IN HIS LEAGUE... AT LEAST, NOT ON ***EARTH***.
HE'LL EAT YOU FOR BREAKFAST! WE LOST DOUG, ILLYANA, WE DON'T WANNA LOSE YOU, TOO!
WE ***WON'T*** LOSE HER IF WE ALL ***HELP!***
MAGNETO THINKS ***WE'RE*** WORTHLESS! WELL, I SAY WE PROVE HIM WRONG!

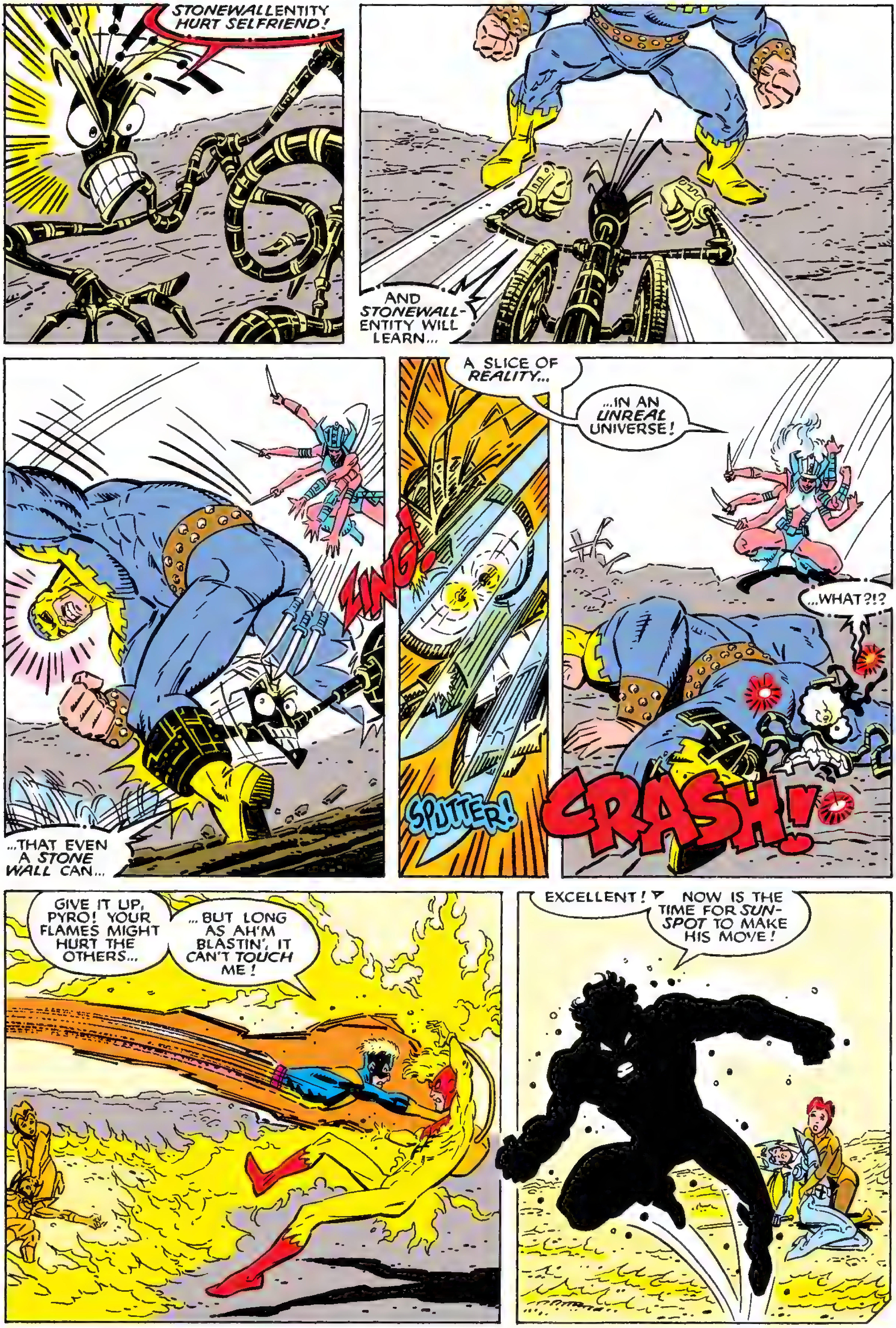

THINK HOW UPSET **WE** ALL WERE WHEN JUST **DOUG** DIED.
AND **ILLYANA** LOST DOUG AND HER BROTHER AND STORM AND... ALL THE OTHERS...
...AND... I SIMPLY COULDN'T **BEAR** IT IF ILLYANA WAS KILLED, TOO.
WE **HAVE** TO GO WITH HER... IF ONLY TO **PROTECT** HER!
BESIDES... DANI WAS GIVEN THE VALKYRIE GIFT OF **DEATH SIGHT.** IF ANYONE GETS IN TROUBLE, DANI CAN TELL 'EM TO PULL OUT.
IT DIDN'T WORK FOR **DOUG,** BOBBY. TERMINALLY **SICK** PEOPLE HAVE A DEATH-GLOW. BUT, IN BATTLE, IT FLICKERS ON AND OFF, AS DANGER THREATENS OR RECEDES.
THERE WAS SO **MUCH** DEATH ON THAT BATTLEFIELD, I COULDN'T **TELL** WHO'D DIE NEXT.
*IN #60. --Ann.
I THOUGHT **DOUG** WAS SAFELY HIDDEN... AND I NEVER EVEN GAVE HIM A GLANCE.
I CAN SEE THE **DEATH GLOW,** YEAH, BUT I'M NOT PRECOGNIZANT. YOU CAN'T COUNT ON **ME** TO WARN YOU.
SELFDEARESTFRIENDS, HEADMASTERMAGNETO SAYS -- LET X-MEN FIGHT **OWN** BATTLES.
WOULD LETTING ILLYANA FACE THIS DEMONFOE **ALONE,** NOT MAKE US AS BAD AS MAGNETO?
AH... GUESS MAYBE IT WOULD.
ALL RIGHT, ILLYANA, WE'LL GO WITH YOU... IF ONLY TO PROTECT YOU FROM YOURSELF.
THEN YOU'LL NEED YOUR COSTUMES. GO ON AND CHANGE...

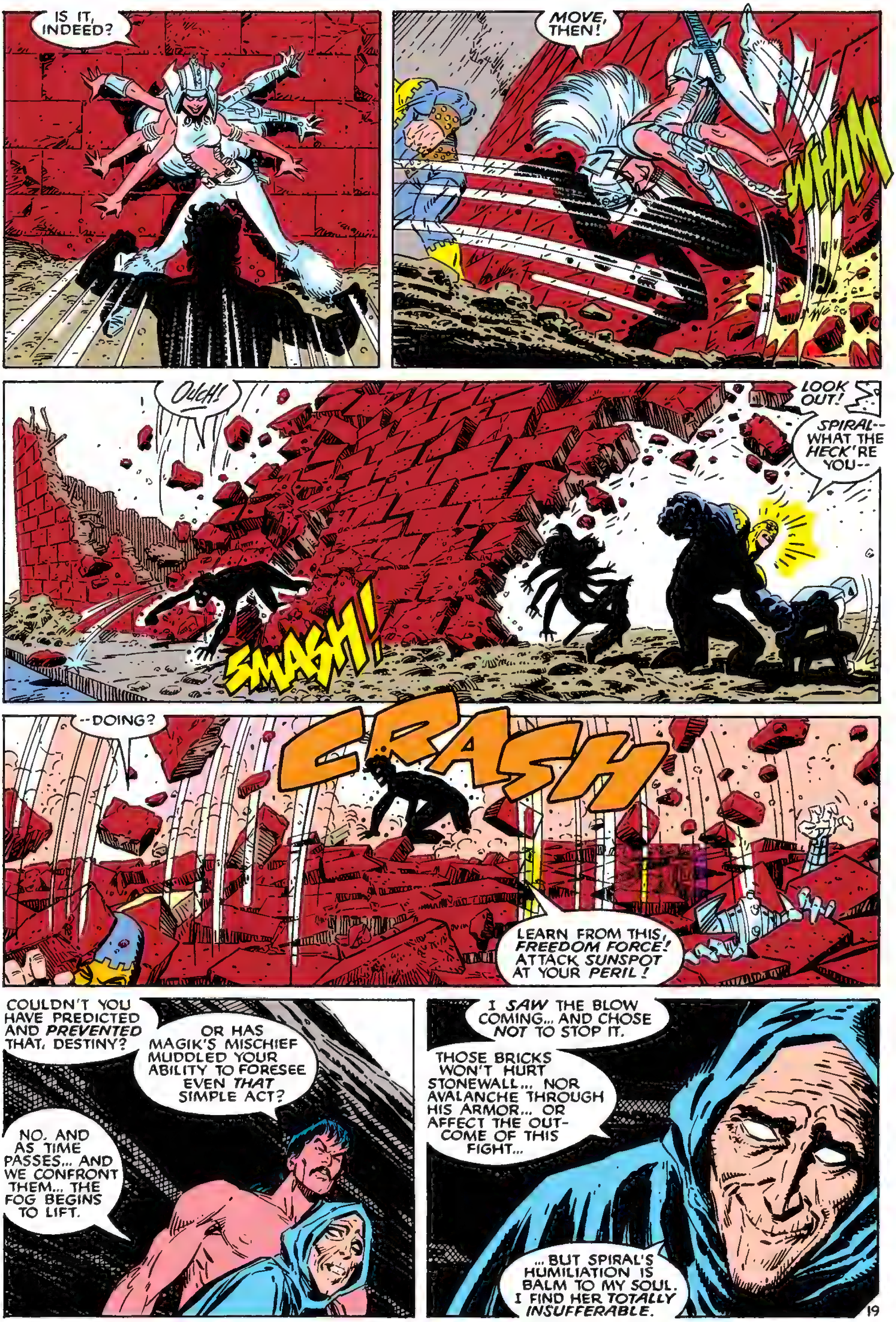

...WHILE I CONJURE MY SCRYING GLASS AND LOOK FOR FORGE!
BLAST... I CAN'T *FIND*--
AH-- THERE!
YOU'RE NOT *REALLY* GOING TO KILL HIM... ARE YOU, ILLYANA?
HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY *KILL* YOUR BROTHER.
HE OPENED THE PORTAL THAT MY BROTHER... AND THE OTHER X-MEN... SACRIFICED THEMSELVES TO CLOSE.
HE USED *BLACK SORCERY* IRRESPONSIBLY! IT'S *HIS* FAULT THAT PETER IS GONE... AND HE'S GOING TO *PAY!*
ILLYANA, LEAVE THE SWORD. IT BINDS LIMBO UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
PLEASE, LIMBO'S BAD ENOUGH ALREADY.
MY SOUL-SWORD CUTS THROUGH *MAGIC*.
I *NEED* IT TO FIGHT HIM ON EARTH.
IT'S WORTH THE *COST*.
A COST SHE CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE! SHE'S GOING TO KILL FORGE FOR OPENING THAT ***LITTLE*** *PORTAL?*
Oh... THE DELICIOUS ***IRONY!***
THE SWORD IS GONE... PERHAPS FOR HOURS... AND EVEN NOW, S'YM'S POWER GROWS.
NOW IS S'YM'S CHANCE TO EXTEND ***LIMBO'S*** *POWER.*
FORGE'S *PORTAL IS* ***NOTHING,*** *COMPARED TO THE ONE THAT S'YM WILL OPEN... WITH THE DARKCHILDE'S UNWITTING HELP.*

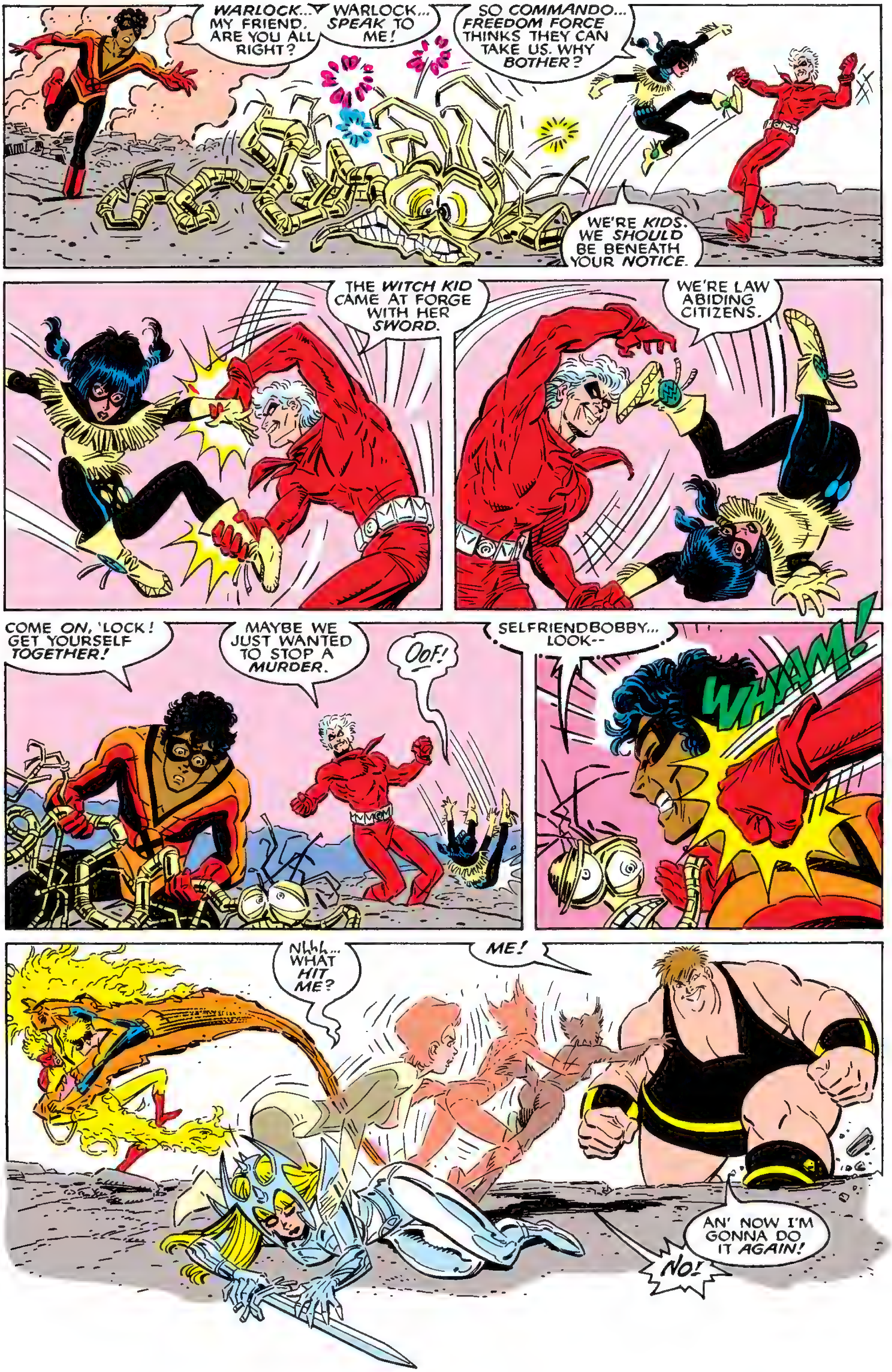

YOU SEE... I SAID THEY'D COME FOR YOU... AND HERE THEY ARE.
A TANGLE OF PROBABILITY FOR CATASTROPHE HANGS AROUND THE DARKCHILDE... CLOUDING MY PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE.
AND YET, ONE THING IS CLEAR. SHE WILL BRING DISASTER FOR OUR WORLD...
...AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ALL OUR SALVATION HANGS ON THE OUTCOME OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE TONIGHT.
FORGE--
--TONIGHT YOU DIE!

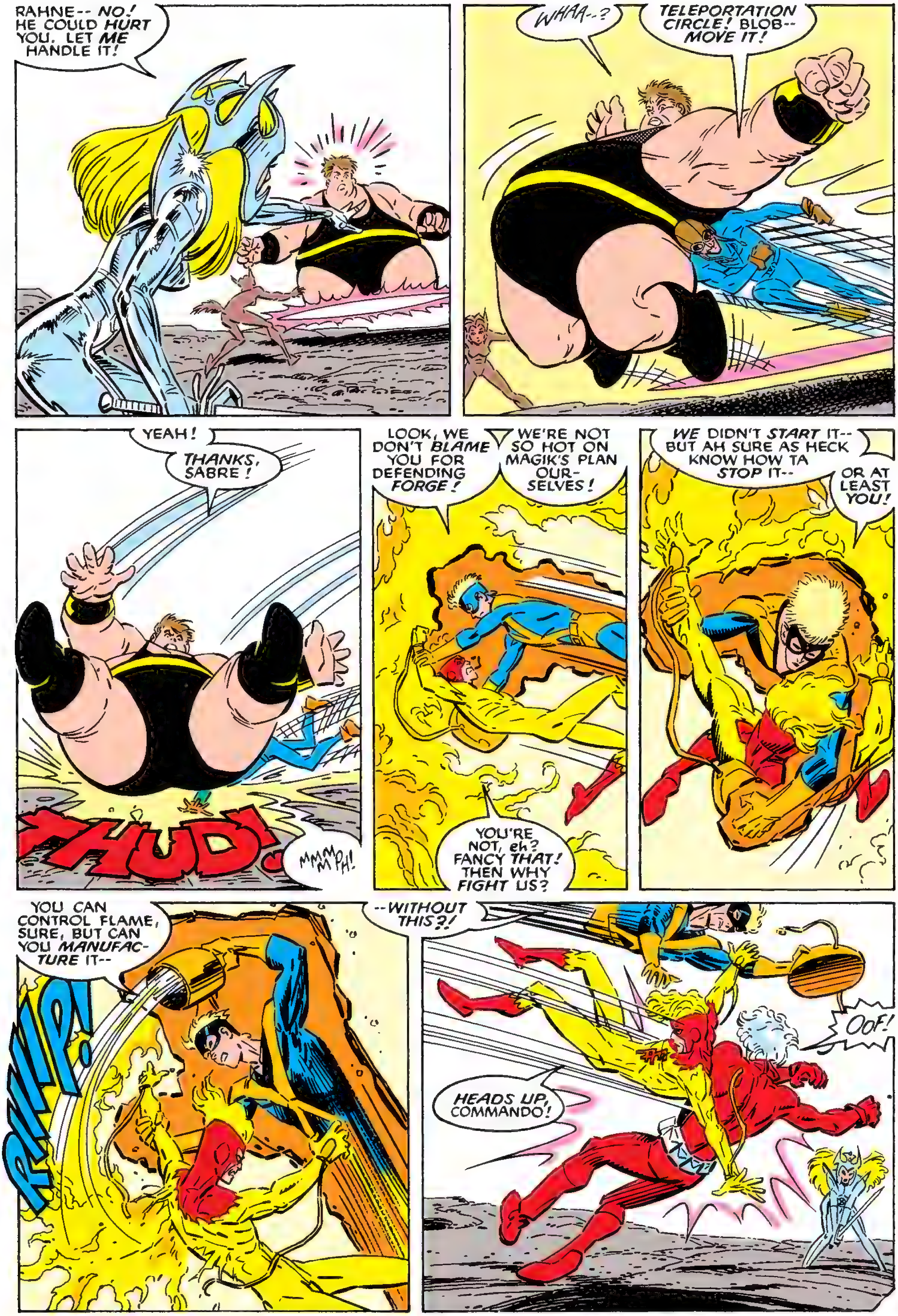

ACCK!
SEE, BOSS?
WHAP!
TAKIN' *HER* OUT'S NO PROBLEM!
THE BLOB! AND THE *BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!*
NOT ANY MORE, KID! WE'RE *FREEDOM FORCE*, NOW...
...AND WE WORK FOR *UNCLE SAM!*
WHRAM!
AN' MOM AN' APPLE PIE AN' TRUTH, JUSTICE AN' TH' AMERICAN WAY! AIN'T IT GRAND?
WATCH IT, GUYS! IT'S *AVALANCHE!* HE MAKES *GROUND-RIPPLES!*
FREEDOM FORCE? YEAH... RIIIGHT.
SO WHAT DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WANT WITH *US?*

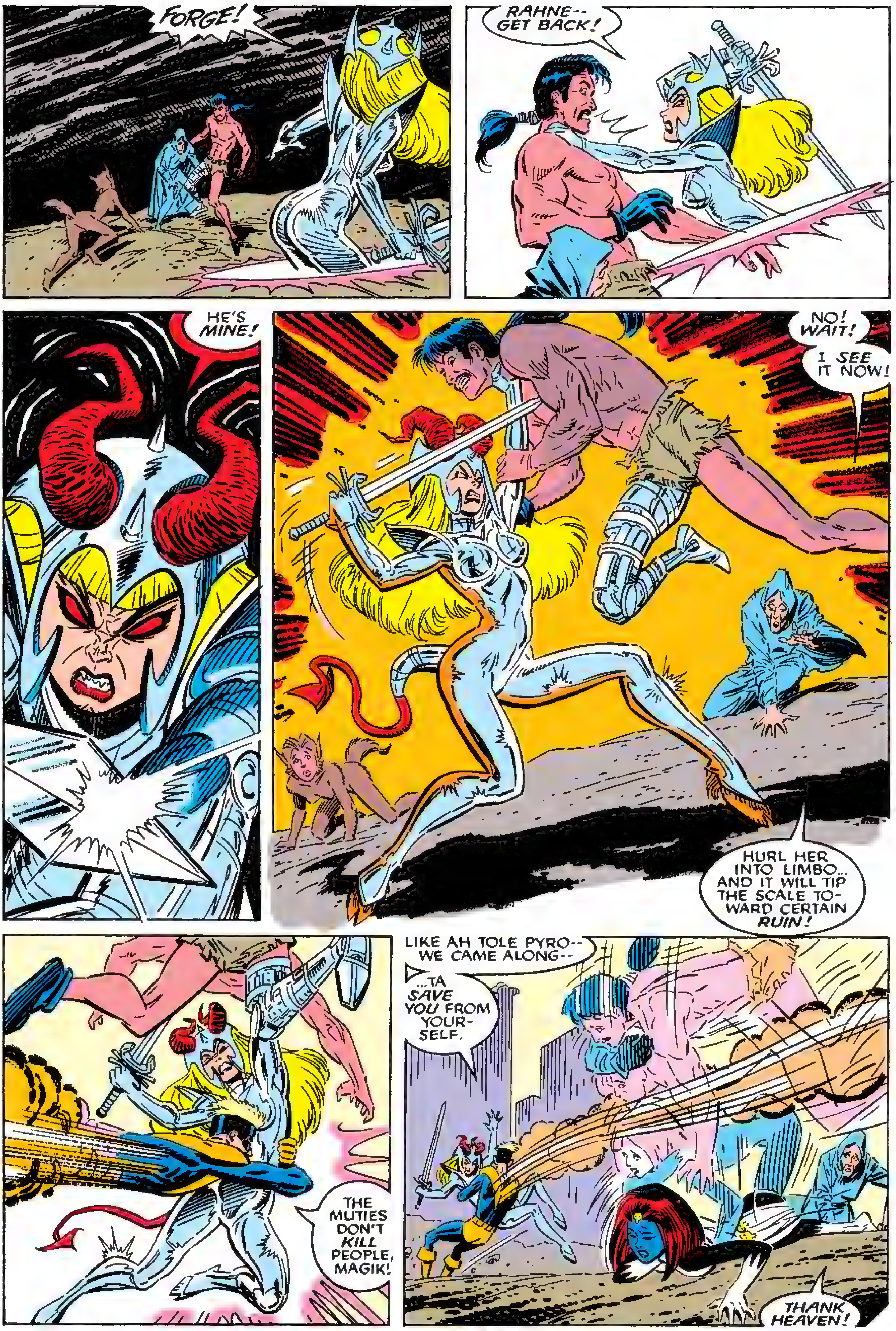

ILLYANA! ILLYANA, ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
DANI--SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
SOME *HEROES!* WE SAW YOU ON TV. YOU WERE WITH THE *X-MEN* IN DALLAS, AT THE END.
THE X-MEN DIED AND *YOU'RE* STILL ALIVE!
SELFRIENDANI, GROUND STILL RIPPLES AND NOW *PYRO* ATTACKS WITH *FLAME!*
SELF WILL NOT LET BEFALL *YOU* WHAT BEFELL THE *X-MEN!*
ALL RIGHT, 'LOCK! NOW LET'S SAVE THE OTHERS!
SELF WILL TAKE OUT *AVALANCHE*--
--FIRST?
WHAM!
QUERY: WHAT WAS *THAT?*
WE CALL HIM *STONEWALL...*
...FOR OBVIOUS REASONS!

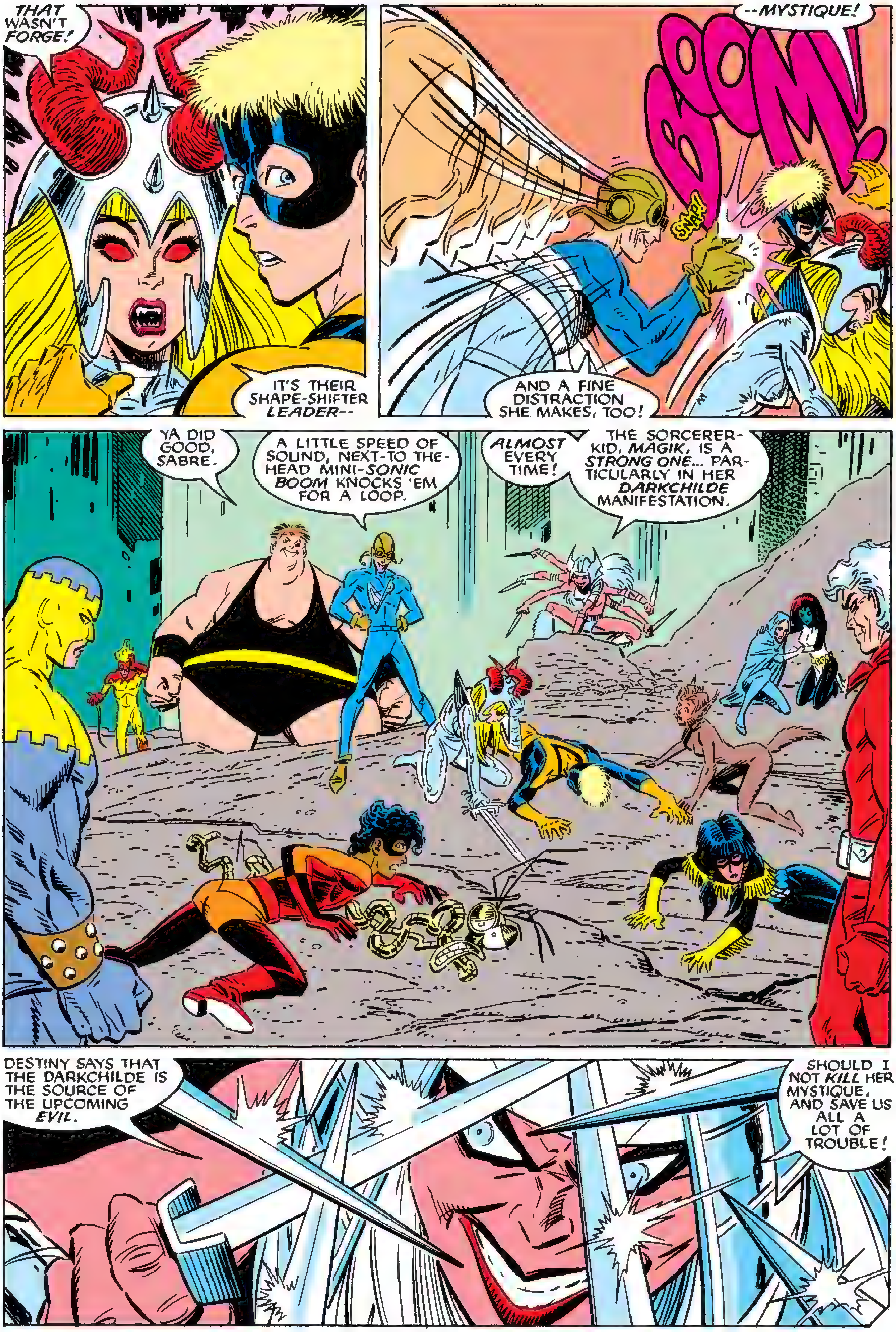

STONEWALLENTITY HURT SELFRIEND!
AND STONEWALL-ENTITY WILL LEARN...
...THAT EVEN A STONE WALL CAN...
ZING!
A SLICE OF REALITY...
...IN AN UNREAL UNIVERSE!
SPUTTER!
...WHAT?!?
CRASH!
GIVE IT UP, PYRO! YOUR FLAMES MIGHT HURT THE OTHERS...
...BUT LONG AS AH'M BLASTIN', IT CAN'T TOUCH ME!
EXCELLENT! NOW IS THE TIME FOR SUNSPOT TO MAKE HIS MOVE!

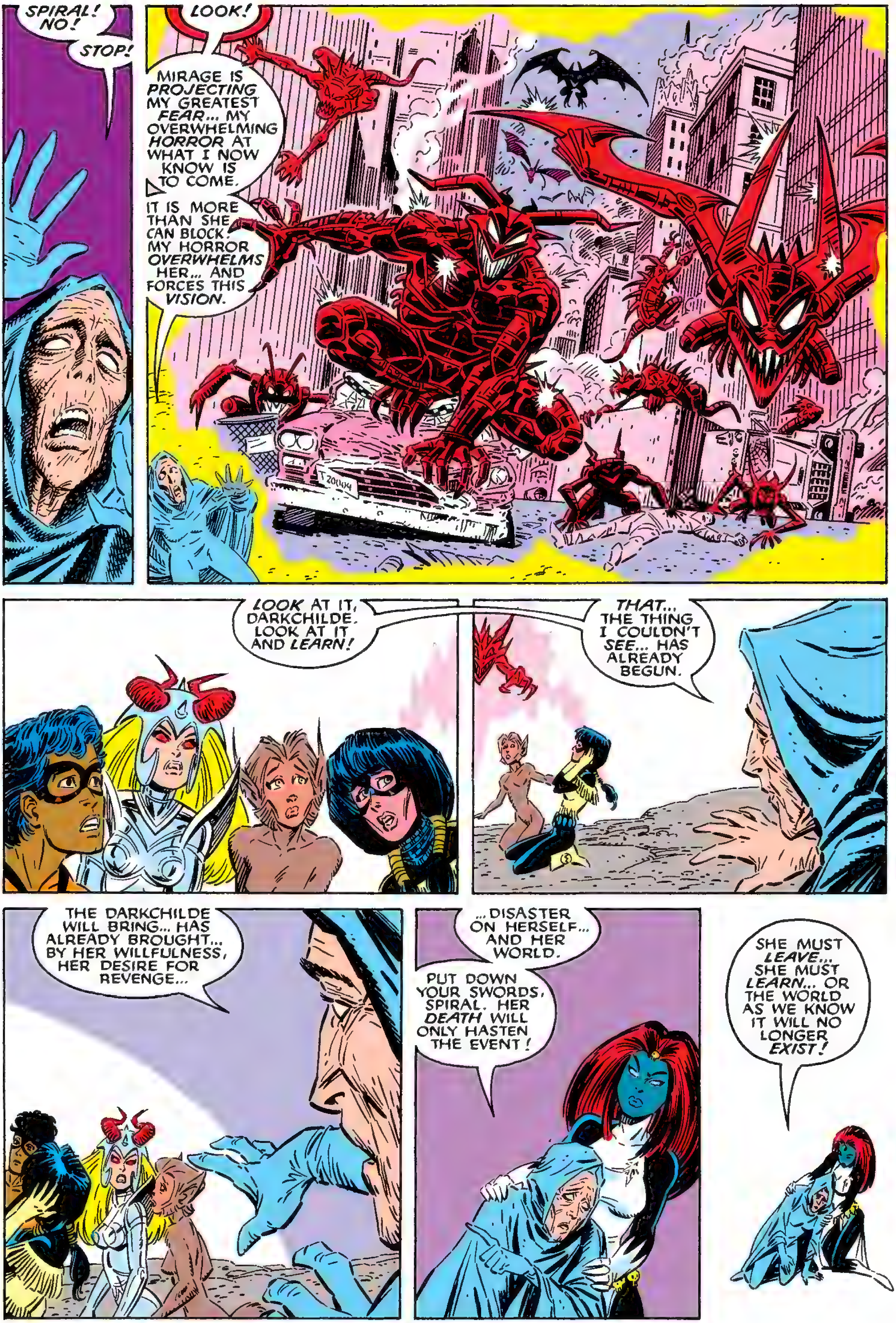

IS IT, INDEED?
MOVE, THEN!
WHAM
OUCH!
SMASH!
LOOK OUT!
SPIRAL-- WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU--
--DOING?
CRASH
LEARN FROM THIS, FREEDOM FORCE! ATTACK SUNSPOT AT YOUR PERIL!
COULDN'T YOU HAVE PREDICTED AND PREVENTED THAT, DESTINY?
OR HAS MAGIK'S MISCHIEF MUDDLED YOUR ABILITY TO FORESEE EVEN THAT SIMPLE ACT?
NO. AND AS TIME PASSES... AND WE CONFRONT THEM... THE FOG BEGINS TO LIFT.
I SAW THE BLOW COMING... AND CHOSE NOT TO STOP IT.
THOSE BRICKS WON'T HURT STONEWALL... NOR AVALANCHE THROUGH HIS ARMOR... OR AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THIS FIGHT...
...BUT SPIRAL'S HUMILIATION IS BALM TO MY SOUL. I FIND HER TOTALLY INSUFFERABLE.

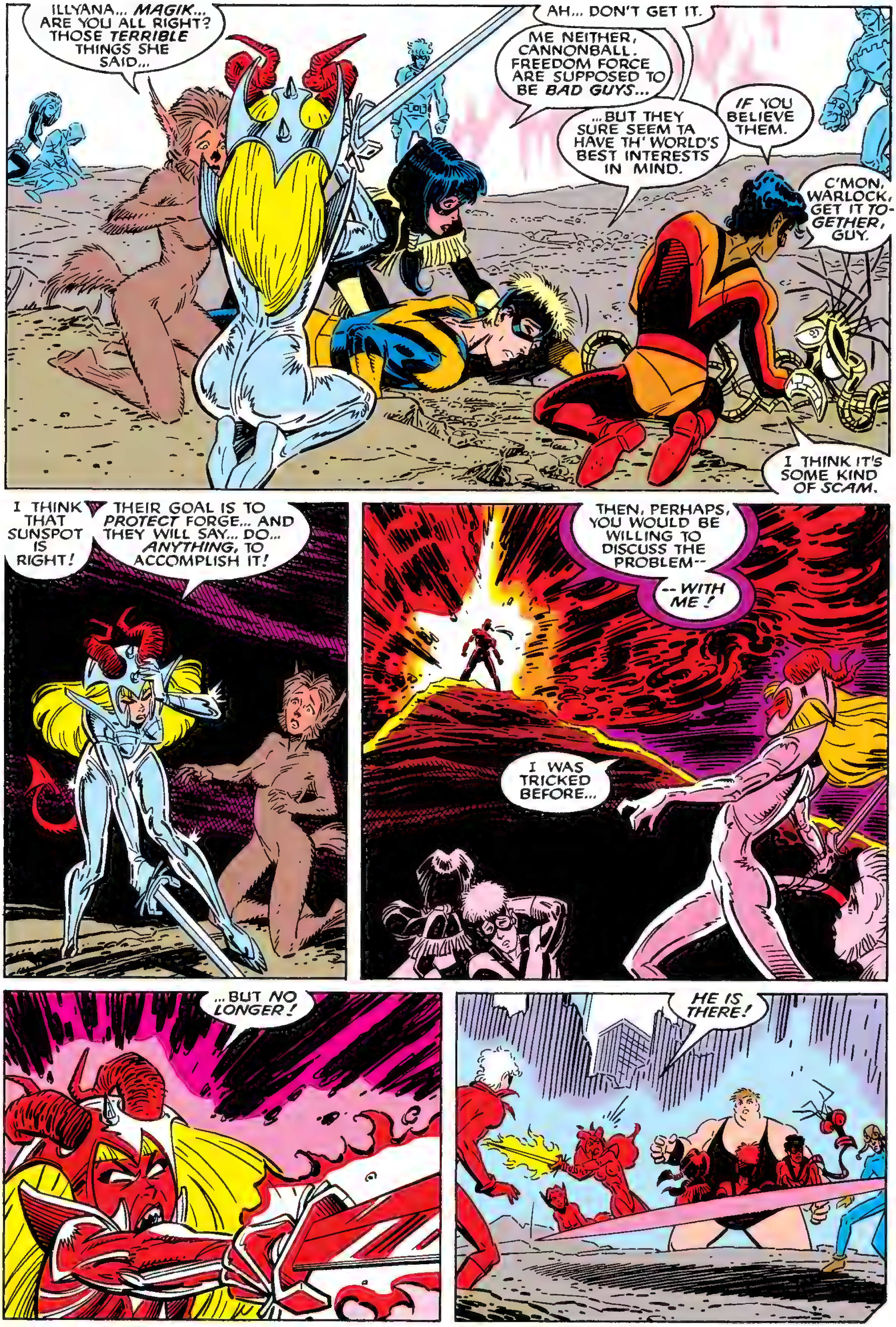

WARLOCK... MY FRIEND. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WARLOCK... *SPEAK* TO ME!
SO *COMMANDO*... *FREEDOM FORCE* THINKS THEY CAN TAKE US. WHY *BOTHER?*
WE'RE *KIDS*. WE *SHOULD* BE BENEATH YOUR *NOTICE*.
THE *WITCH KID* CAME AT FORGE WITH HER *SWORD*.
WE'RE LAW ABIDING CITIZENS.
COME *ON*, 'LOCK! GET YOURSELF *TOGETHER!*
MAYBE WE JUST WANTED TO STOP A *MURDER*.
OOF!
SELFRIENDBOBBY... LOOK--
WHAAM!
NHH... WHAT *HIT* ME?
ME!
AN' NOW I'M GONNA DO IT *AGAIN!*
NO!

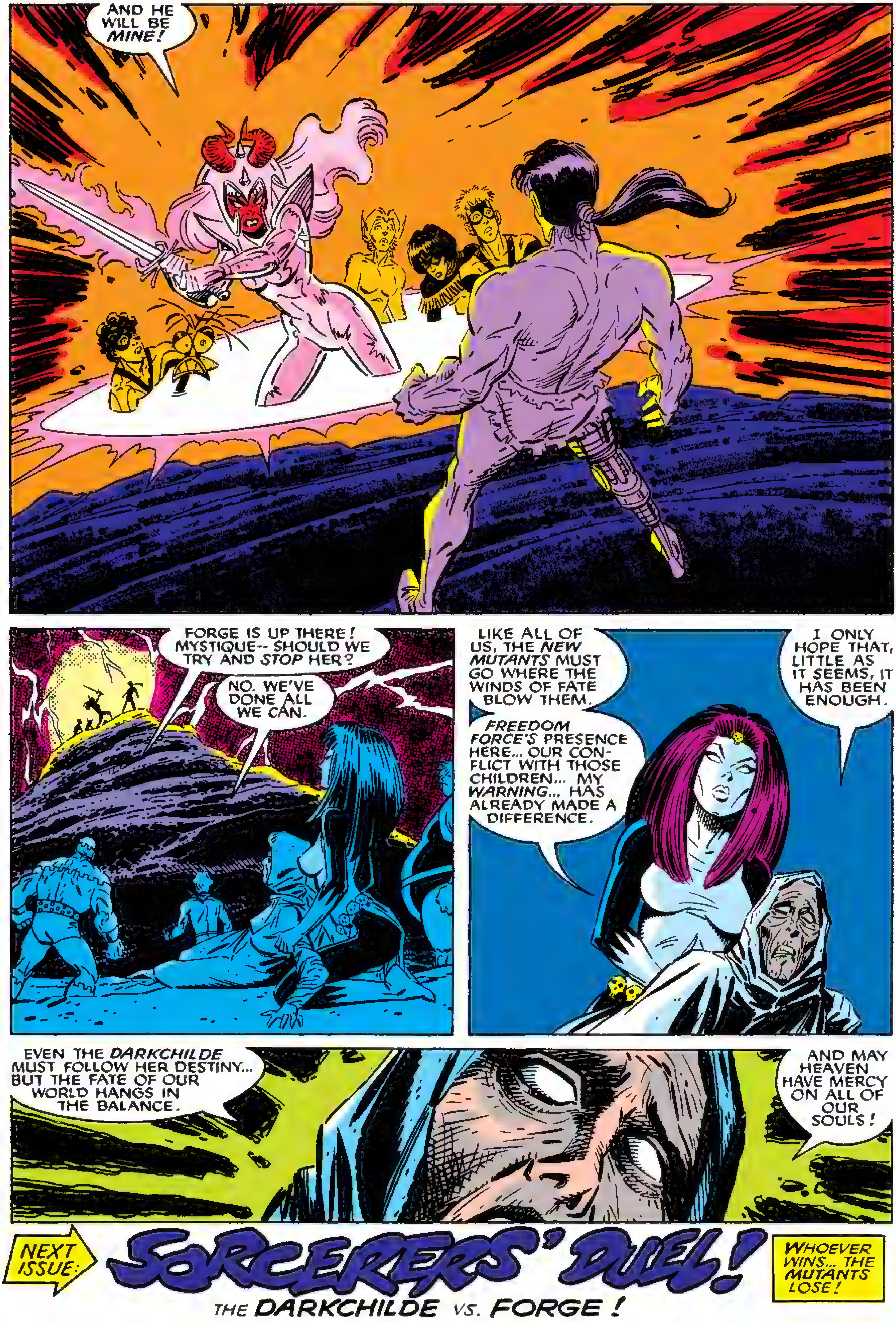

RAHNE-- NO! HE COULD HURT YOU. LET ME HANDLE IT!
WHAA--?
TELEPORTATION CIRCLE! BLOB-- MOVE IT!
YEAH!
THANKS, SABRE!
THUD!
MMMMPH!
LOOK, WE DON'T BLAME YOU FOR DEFENDING FORGE!
WE'RE NOT SO HOT ON MAGIK'S PLAN OURSELVES!
YOU'RE NOT, eh? FANCY THAT! THEN WHY FIGHT US?
WE DIDN'T START IT-- BUT AH SURE AS HECK KNOW HOW TA STOP IT--
OR AT LEAST YOU!
YOU CAN CONTROL FLAME, SURE, BUT CAN YOU MANUFACTURE IT--
RHIP!
--WITHOUT THIS?!
OOF!
HEADS UP, COMMANDO!


FORGE!
RAHNE-- GET BACK!
HE'S MINE!
NO! WAIT!
I SEE IT NOW!
HURL HER INTO LIMBO... AND IT WILL TIP THE SCALE TOWARD CERTAIN RUIN!
THE MUTIES DON'T KILL PEOPLE, MAGIK!
LIKE AH TOLE PYRO-- WE CAME ALONG--
...TA SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF.
THANK HEAVEN!


THAT WASN'T *FORGE!*
IT'S THEIR SHAPE-SHIFTER *LEADER--*
--MYSTIQUE!
BOOM!
SNAP!
AND A FINE DISTRACTION SHE MAKES, TOO!
YA DID GOOD, SABRE.
A LITTLE SPEED OF SOUND, NEXT-TO THE-HEAD MINI-*SONIC BOOM* KNOCKS 'EM FOR A LOOP.
ALMOST EVERY TIME!
THE SORCERER-KID, *MAGIK,* IS A *STRONG ONE*... PARTICULARLY IN HER *DARKCHILDE* MANIFESTATION.
DESTINY SAYS THAT THE DARKCHILDE IS THE SOURCE OF THE UPCOMING *EVIL.*
SHOULD I NOT *KILL* HER, MYSTIQUE, AND SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TROUBLE!


SPIRAL! NO!
STOP!
LOOK!
MIRAGE IS *PROJECTING* MY GREATEST *FEAR*... MY OVERWHELMING *HORROR* AT WHAT I NOW KNOW IS TO COME.
IT IS MORE THAN SHE CAN BLOCK. MY HORROR *OVERWHELMS* HER... AND FORCES THIS *VISION*.
T2000
LOOK AT IT, DARKCHILDE. LOOK AT IT AND *LEARN!*
THAT... THE THING I COULDN'T *SEE*... HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
THE DARKCHILDE WILL BRING... HAS ALREADY BROUGHT... BY HER WILLFULNESS, HER DESIRE FOR REVENGE...
...DISASTER ON HERSELF... AND HER WORLD.
PUT DOWN YOUR SWORDS, SPIRAL. HER *DEATH* WILL ONLY HASTEN THE EVENT!
SHE MUST *LEAVE*... SHE MUST *LEARN*... OR THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT WILL NO LONGER *EXIST!*


ILLYANA... *MAGIK*... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THOSE *TERRIBLE* THINGS SHE SAID...
AH... DON'T GET IT.
ME NEITHER, CANNONBALL. FREEDOM FORCE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE *BAD GUYS*...
...BUT THEY SURE SEEM TA HAVE TH' WORLD'S BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.
IF YOU BELIEVE THEM.
C'MON, WARLOCK, GET IT TOGETHER, GUY.
I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF *SCAM*.
I THINK THAT SUNSPOT IS RIGHT!
THEIR GOAL IS TO *PROTECT* FORGE... AND THEY WILL SAY... DO... *ANYTHING*, TO ACCOMPLISH IT!
THEN, PERHAPS, YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM--
--*WITH ME!*
I WAS TRICKED BEFORE...
...BUT *NO LONGER!*
HE IS THERE!


AND HE WILL BE *MINE!*
FORGE IS UP THERE! MYSTIQUE-- SHOULD WE TRY AND *STOP* HER?
NO. WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN.
LIKE ALL OF US, THE *NEW MUTANTS* MUST GO WHERE THE WINDS OF FATE BLOW THEM.
FREEDOM FORCE'S PRESENCE HERE... OUR CONFLICT WITH THOSE CHILDREN... MY *WARNING*... HAS ALREADY MADE A DIFFERENCE.
I ONLY HOPE THAT, LITTLE AS IT SEEMS, IT HAS BEEN ENOUGH.
EVEN THE *DARKCHILDE* MUST FOLLOW HER DESTINY... BUT THE FATE OF OUR WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
AND MAY HEAVEN HAVE MERCY ON ALL OF OUR SOULS!
NEXT ISSUE:
SORCERERS' DUEL!
THE DARKCHILDE VS. FORGE!
WHOEVER WINS... THE MUTANTS LOSE!

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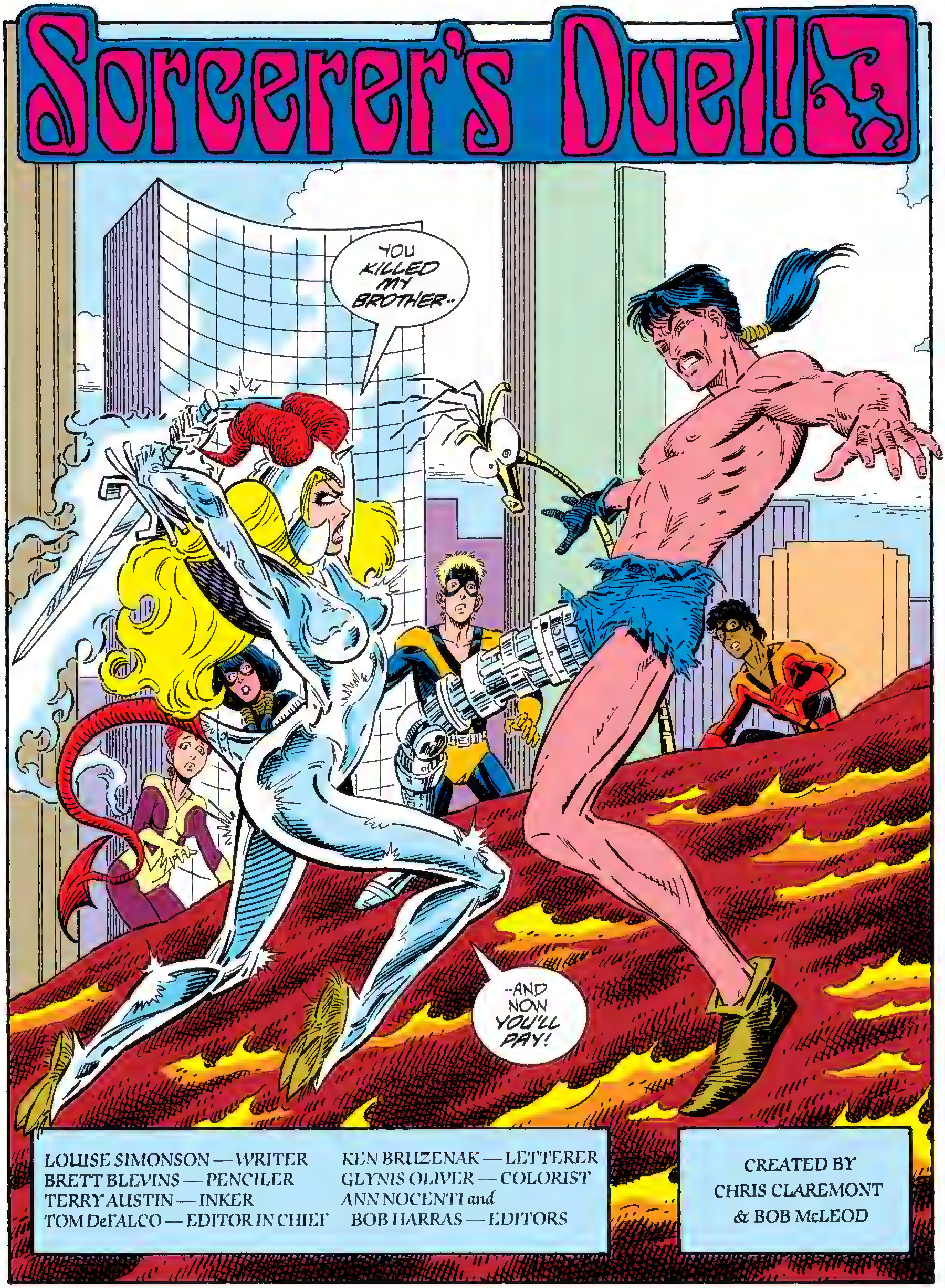
BLEVINS + AUSTIN

Sorcerer's Duel!


YOU KILLED MY BROTHER--
--AND NOW YOU'LL PAY!

LOUISE SIMONSON — WRITER
BRETT BLEVINS — PENCILER
TERRY AUSTIN — INKER
TOM DeFALCO — EDITOR IN CHIEF
KEN BRUZENAK — LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER — COLORIST
ANN NOCENTI *and*
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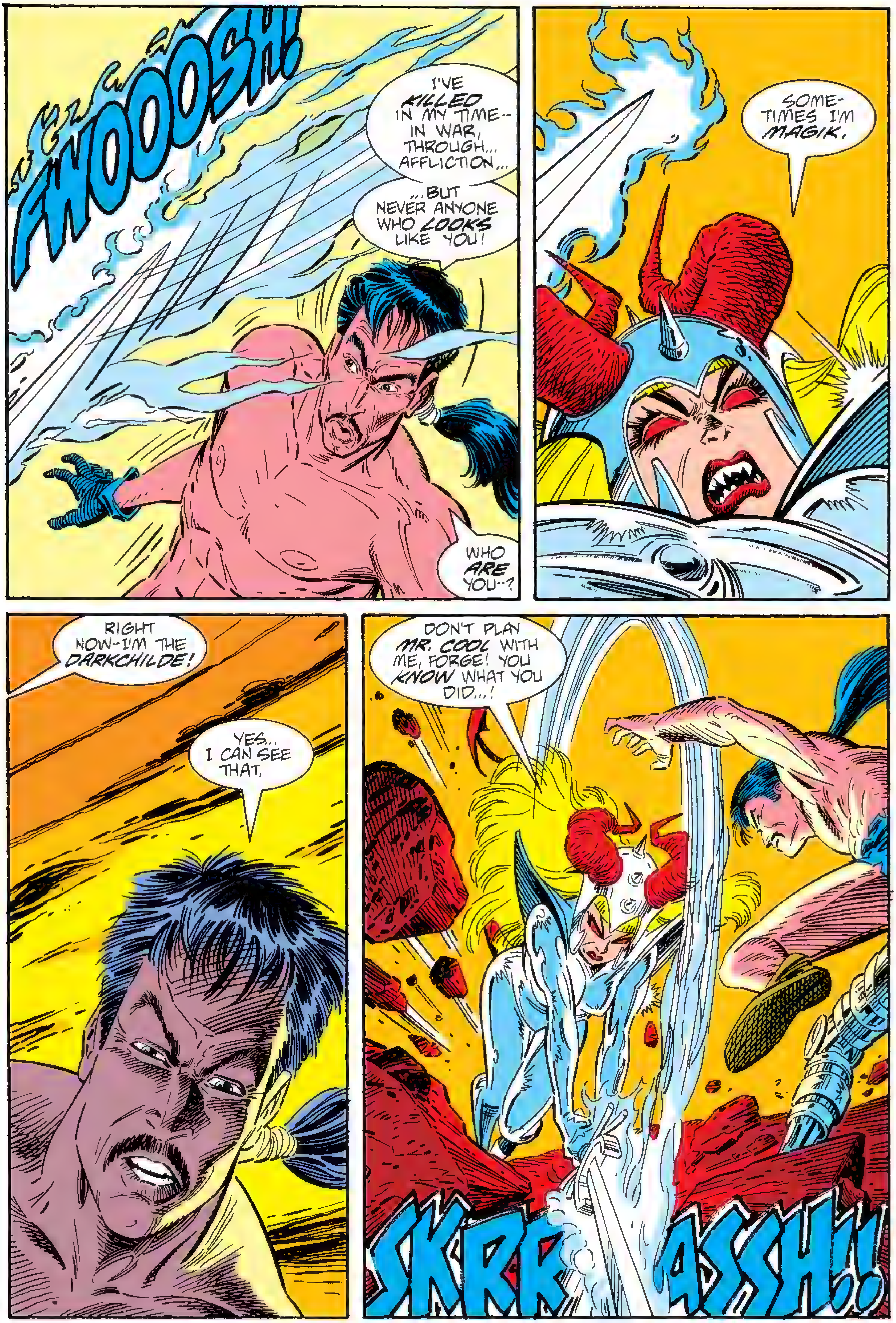
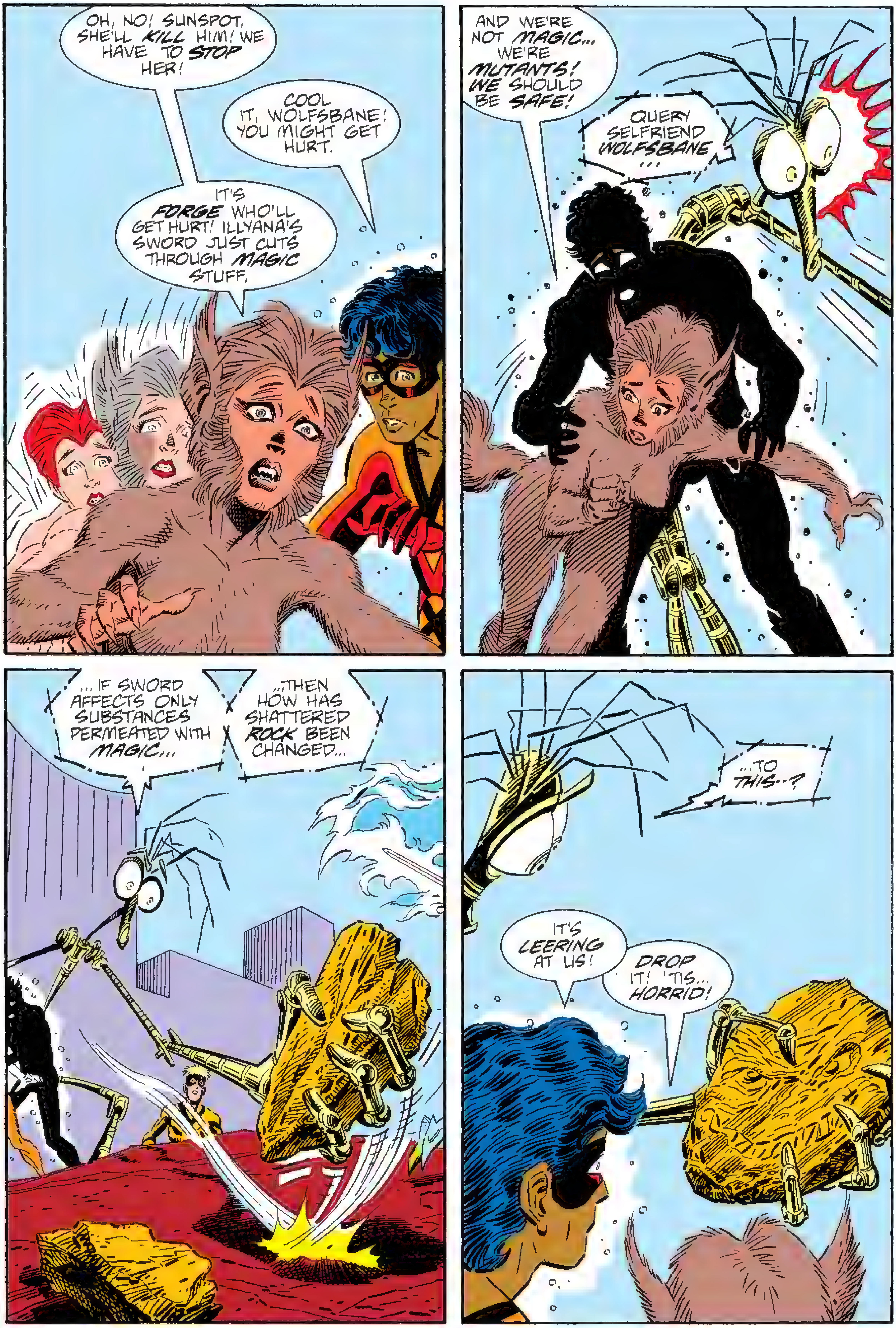
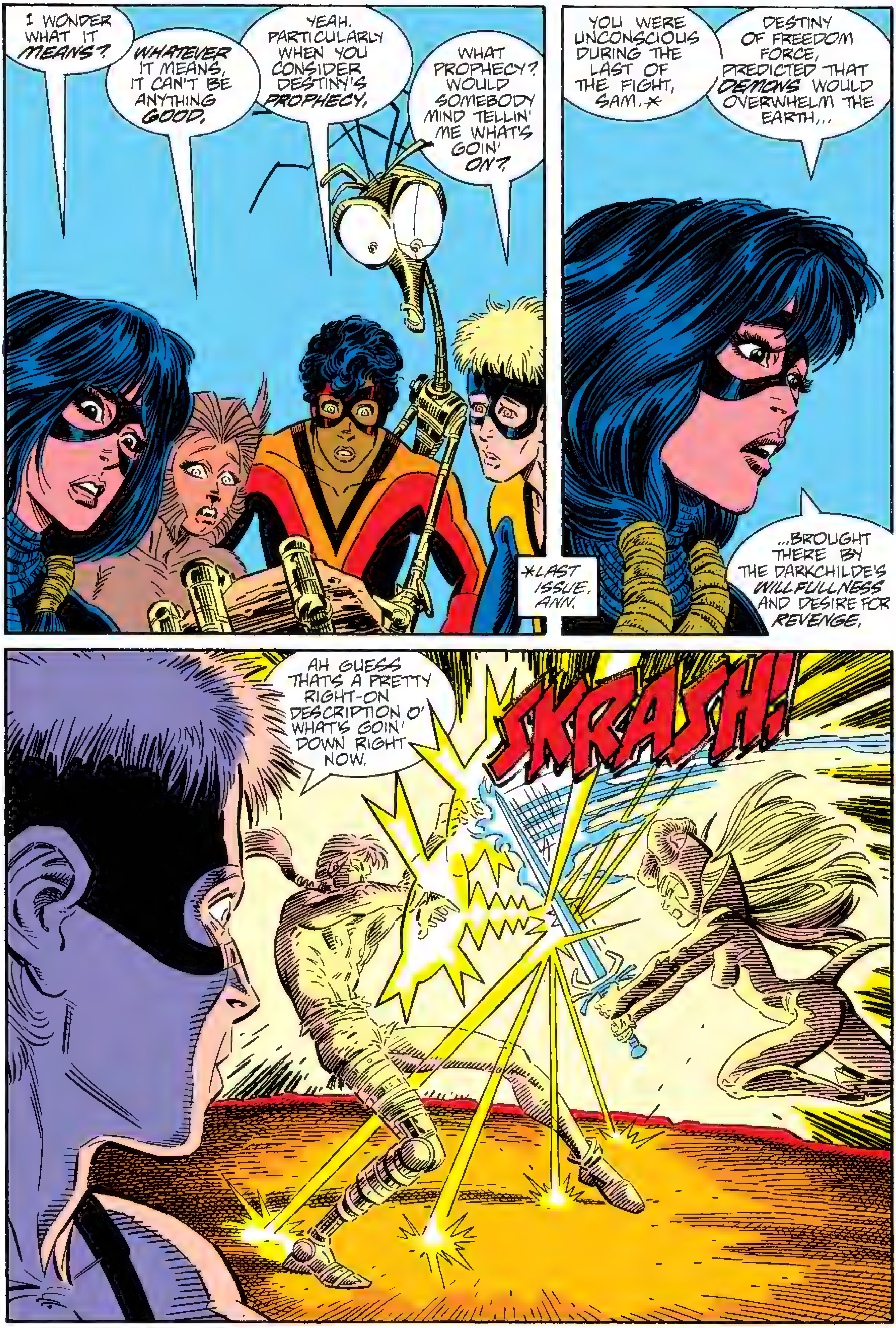
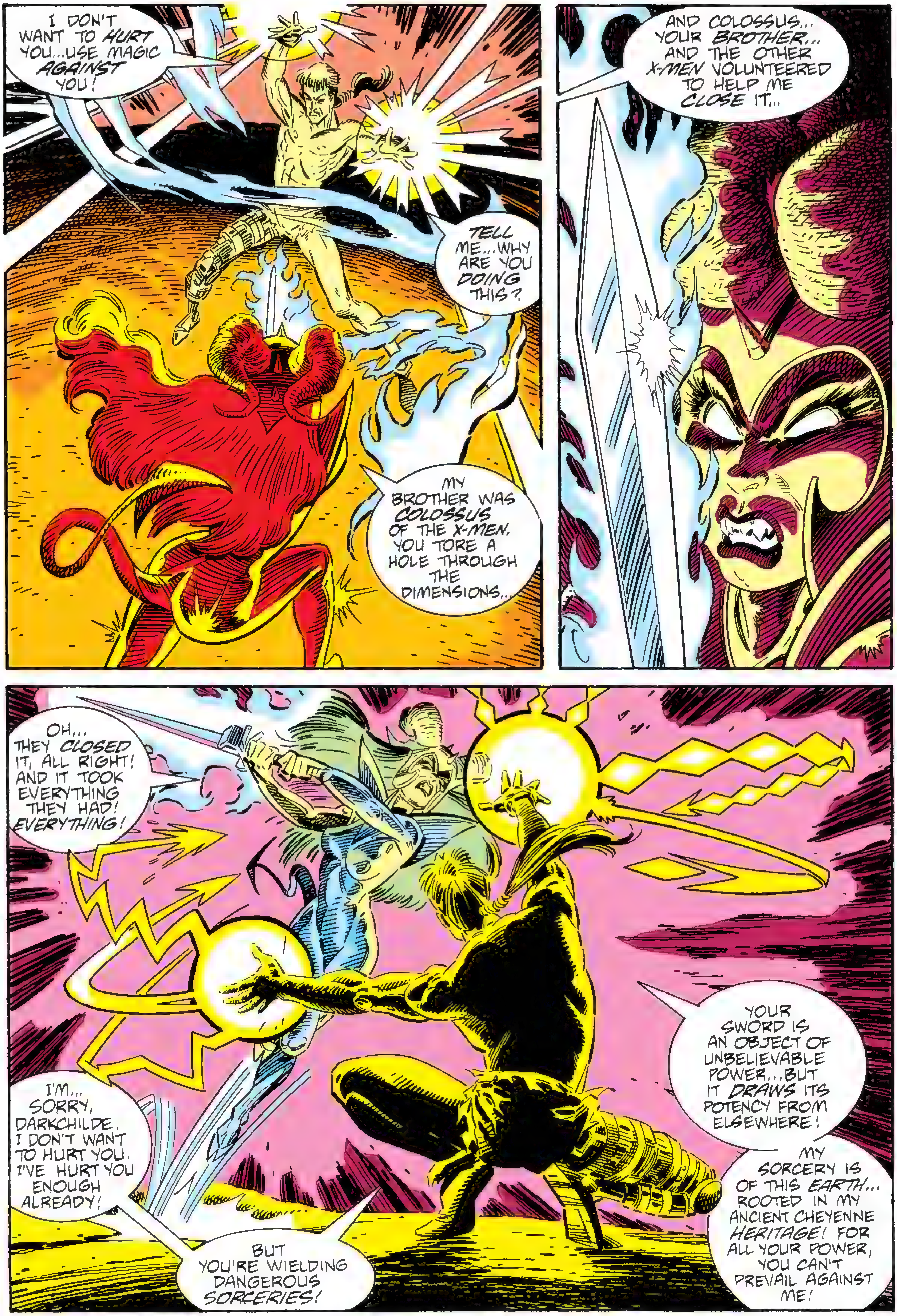
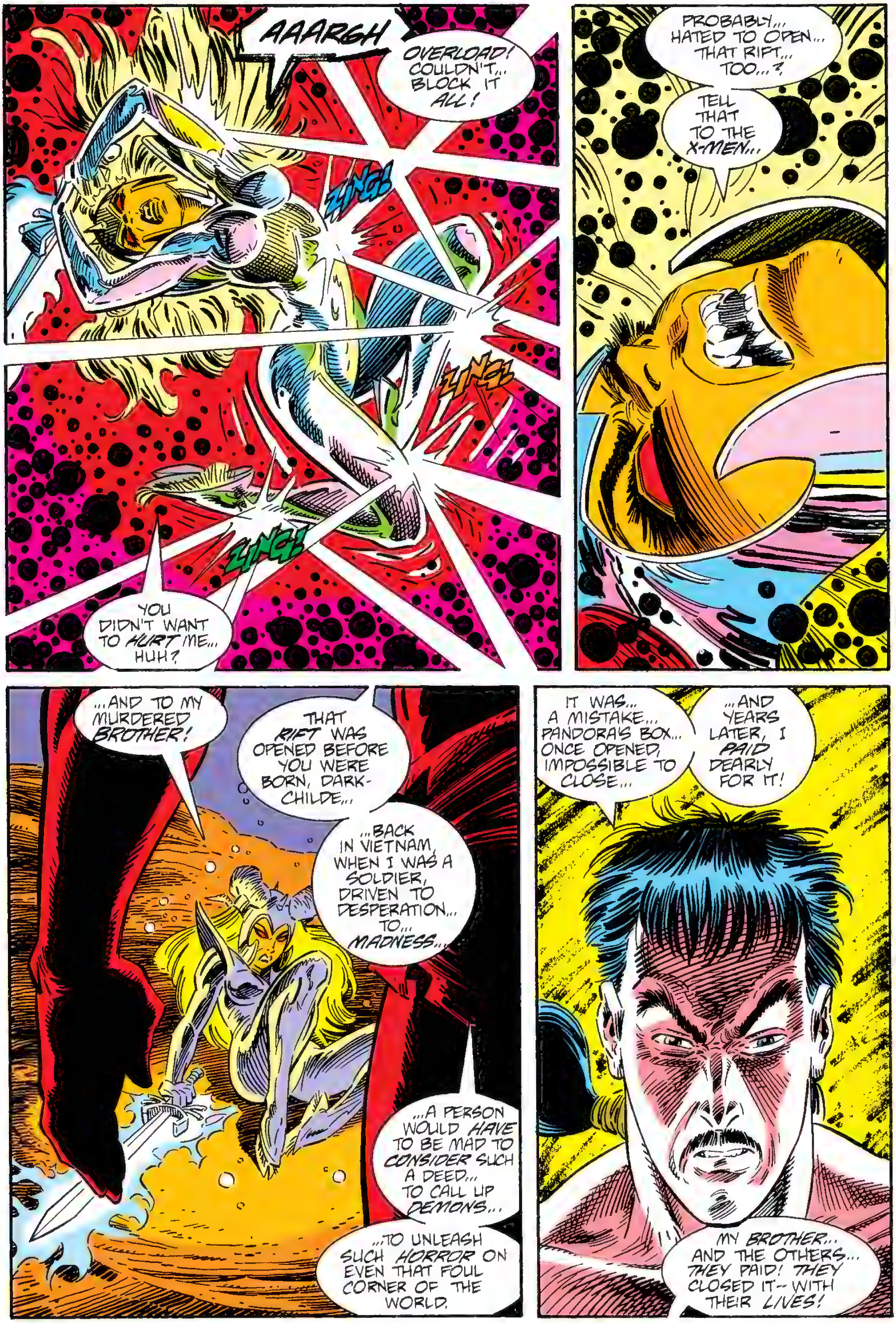
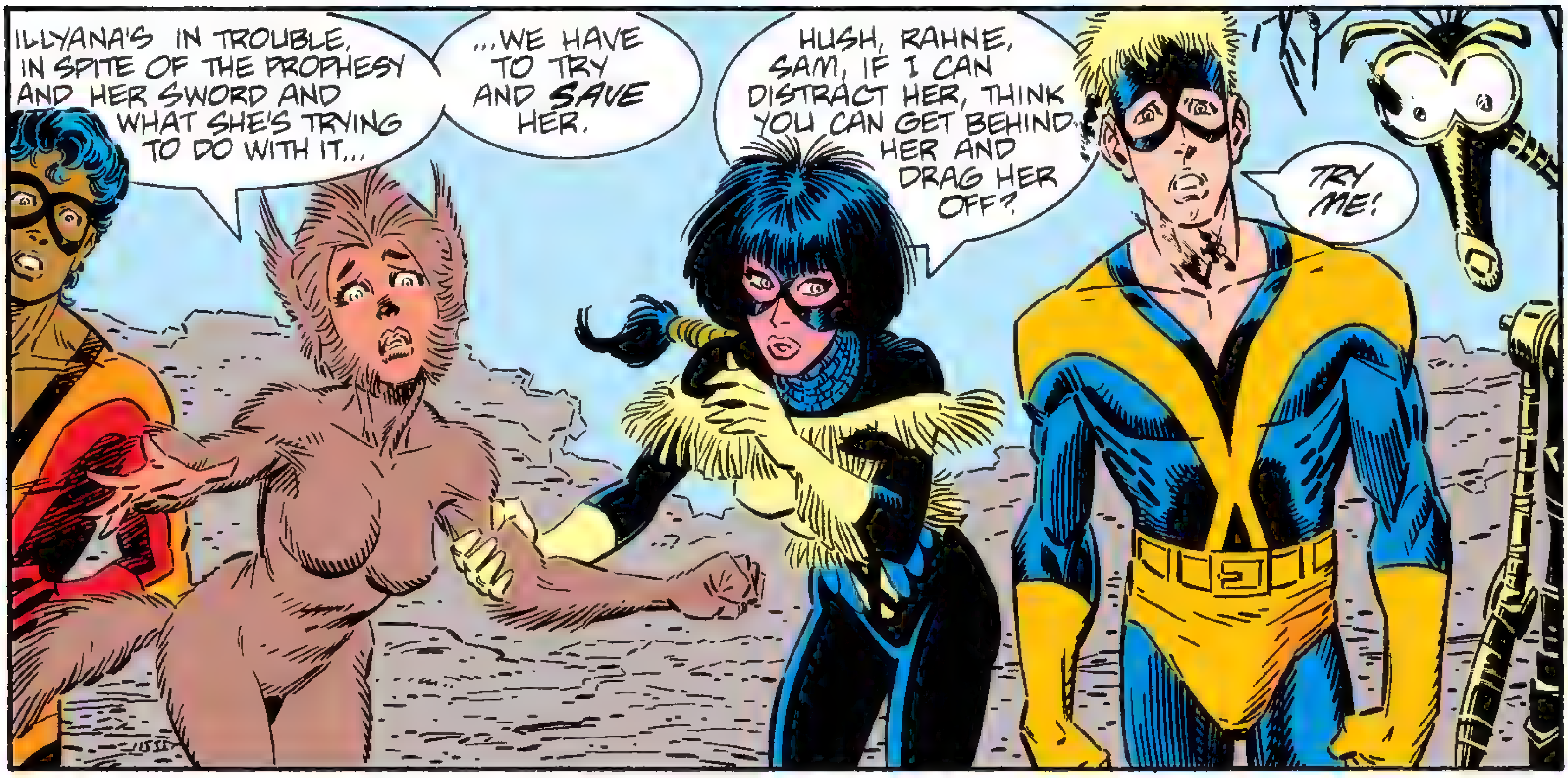

FWOOOSH!
I'VE KILLED IN MY TIME-- IN WAR, THROUGH... AFFLICTION...
...BUT NEVER ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU--?
SOME-TIMES I'M MAGIK.
RIGHT NOW--I'M THE DARKCHILDE!
YES... I CAN SEE THAT.
DON'T PLAY MR. COOL WITH ME, FORGE! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID...!
SKRRASSH!!

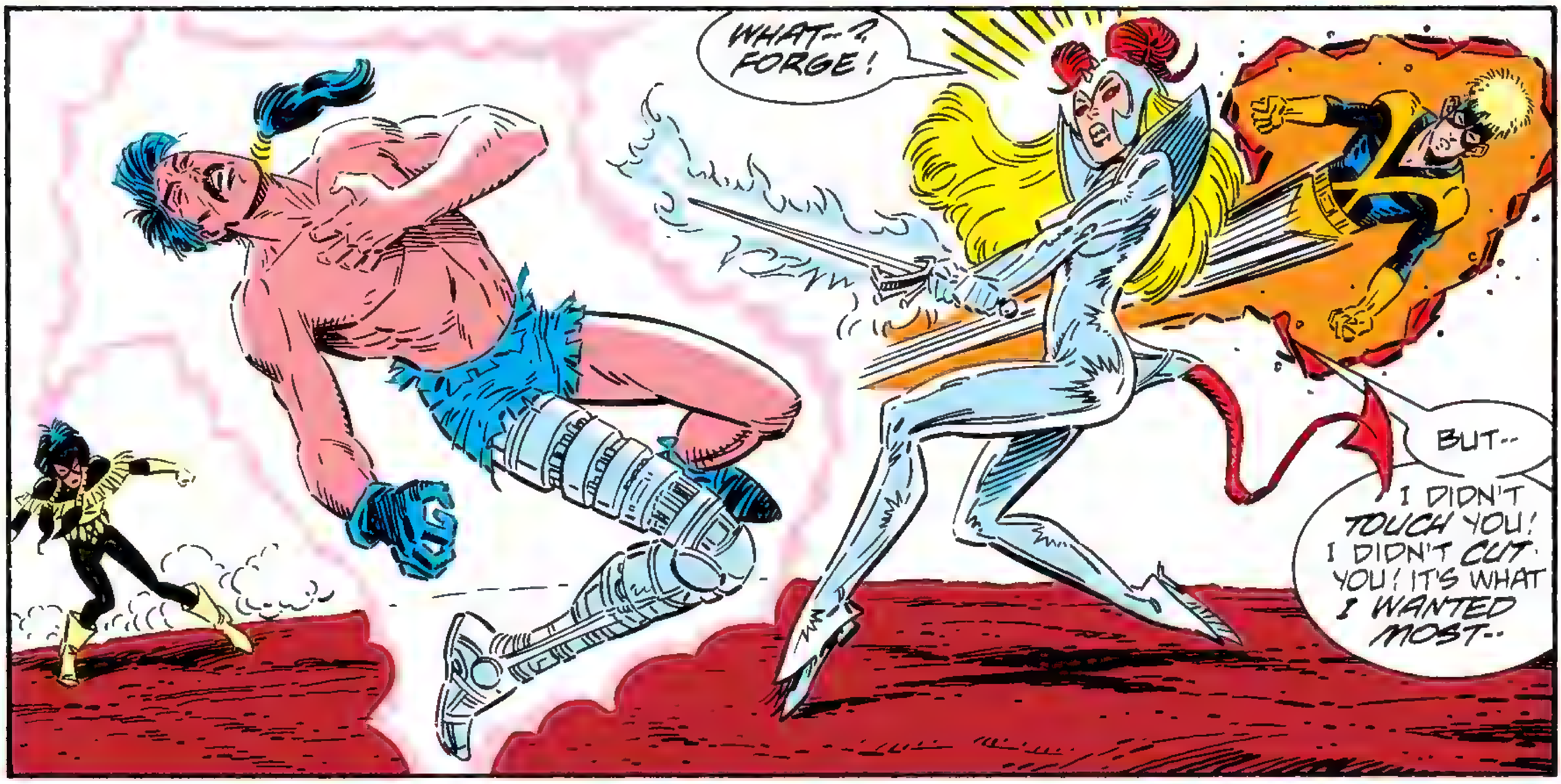

OH, NO! SUNSPOT, SHE'LL KILL HIM! WE HAVE TO STOP HER!
COOL IT, WOLFSBANE! YOU MIGHT GET HURT.
IT'S FORGE WHO'LL GET HURT! ILLYANA'S SWORD JUST CUTS THROUGH MAGIC STUFF.
AND WE'RE NOT MAGIC... WE'RE MUTANTS! WE SHOULD BE SAFE!
QUERY SELFFRIEND WOLFSBANE...
...IF SWORD AFFECTS ONLY SUBSTANCES PERMEATED WITH MAGIC...
...THEN HOW HAS SHATTERED ROCK BEEN CHANGED...
...TO THIS...?
IT'S LEERING AT US!
DROP IT! 'TIS... HORRID!

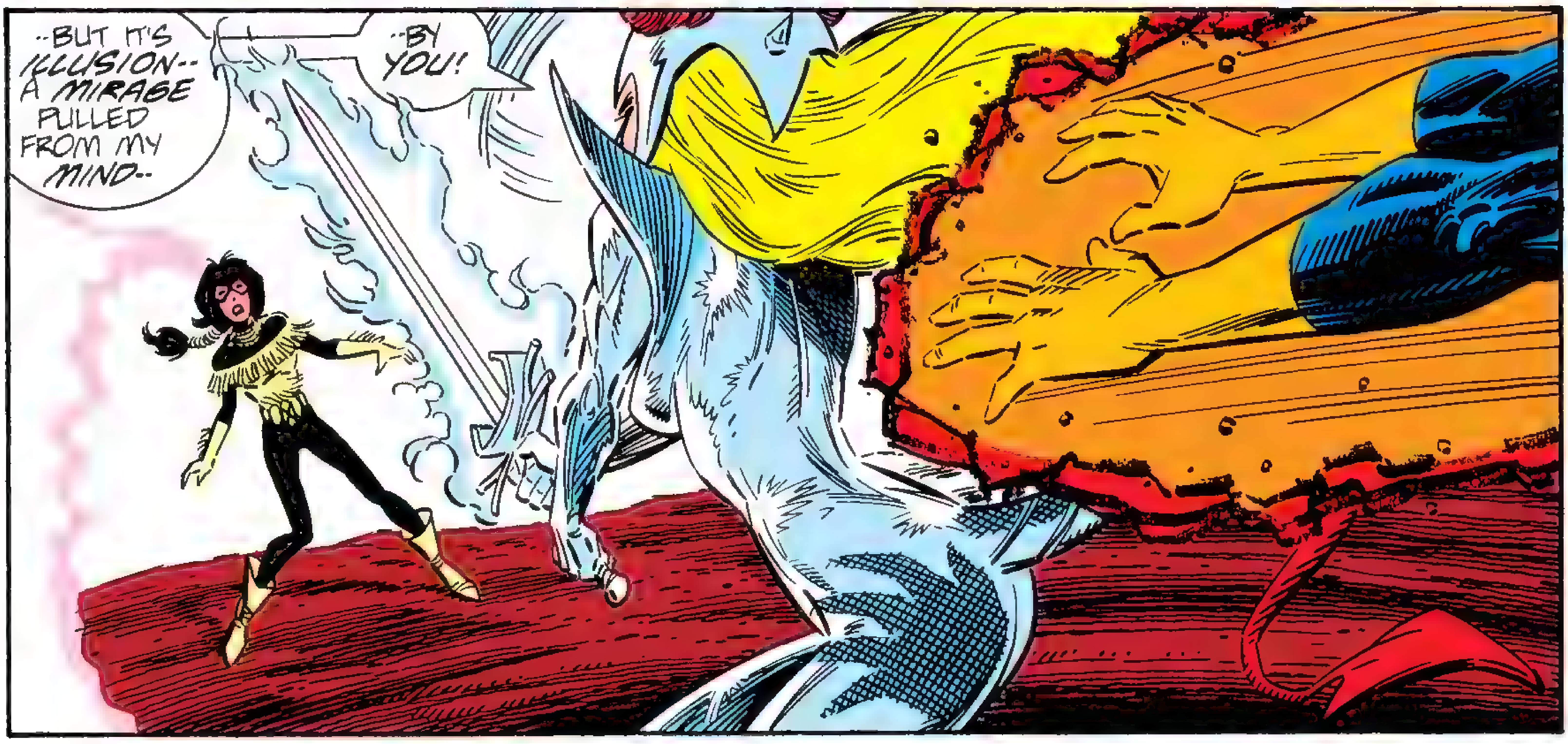

I WONDER WHAT IT *MEANS*?
WHATEVER IT MEANS, IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING *GOOD*.
YEAH. PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER DESTINY'S *PROPHECY*.
WHAT PROPHECY? WOULD SOMEBODY MIND TELLIN' ME WHAT'S GOIN' *ON*?
*LAST ISSUE. ANN.
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS DURING THE LAST OF THE FIGHT, SAM.*
DESTINY OF FREEDOM FORCE, PREDICTED THAT *DEMONS* WOULD OVERWHELM THE EARTH...
...BROUGHT THERE BY THE DARKCHILDE'S *WILLFULLNESS* AND DESIRE FOR *REVENGE*.
AH GUESS THAT'S A PRETTY RIGHT-ON DESCRIPTION O' WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN RIGHT NOW.
SKRASH!

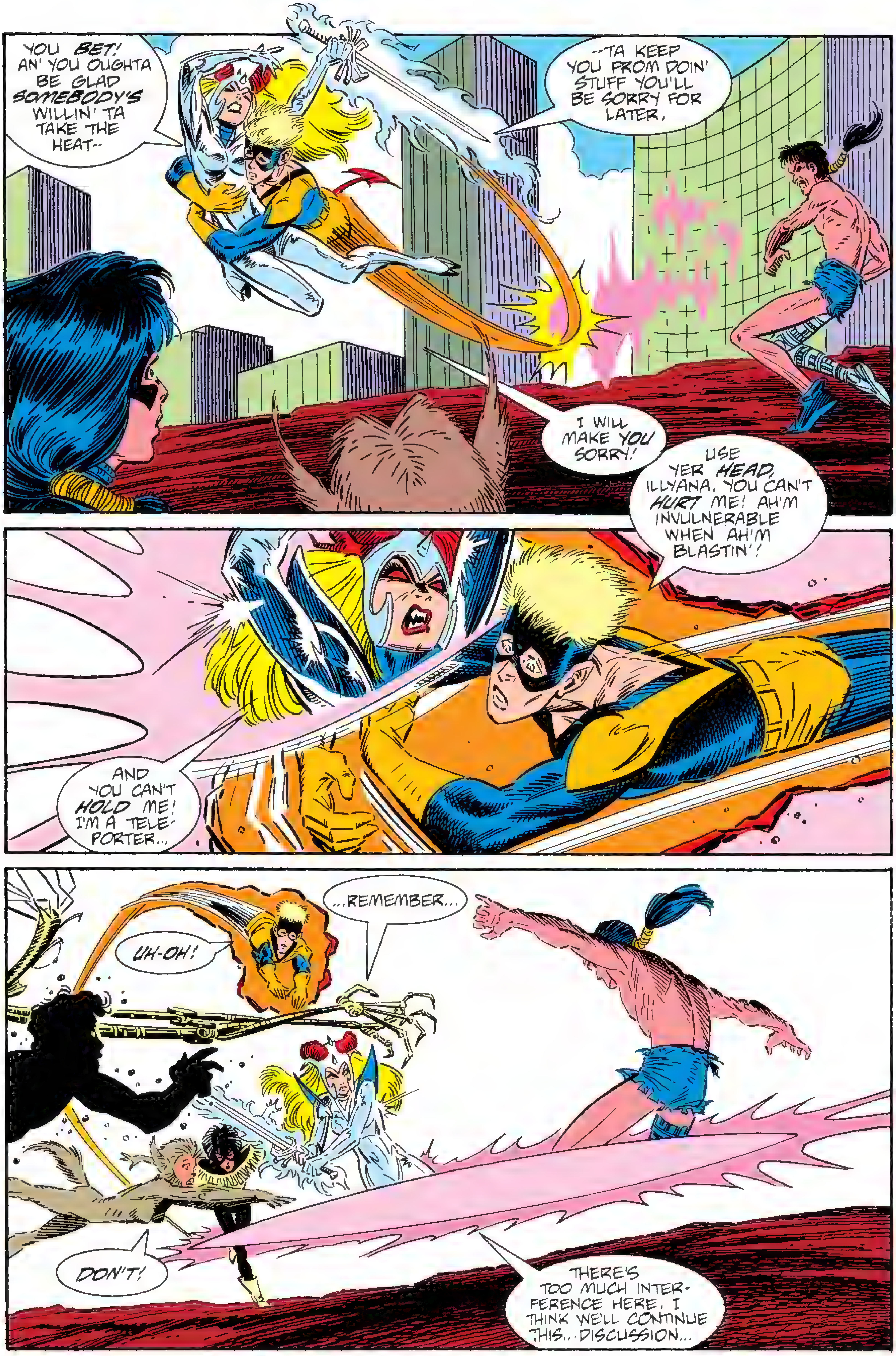

I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU...USE MAGIC *AGAINST* YOU!
TELL ME...WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?
MY BROTHER WAS *COLOSSUS* OF THE X-MEN. YOU TORE A HOLE THROUGH THE DIMENSIONS...
AND COLOSSUS... YOUR *BROTHER*... AND THE OTHER *X-MEN* VOLUNTEERED TO HELP ME *CLOSE* IT...
OH... THEY *CLOSED* IT, ALL RIGHT! AND IT TOOK EVERYTHING THEY HAD! *EVERYTHING!*
YOUR SWORD IS AN OBJECT OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER...BUT IT *DRAWS* ITS POTENCY FROM ELSEWHERE!
I'M... SORRY, DARKCHILDE. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I'VE HURT YOU ENOUGH ALREADY!
BUT YOU'RE WIELDING DANGEROUS *SORCERIES!*
MY SORCERY IS OF THIS *EARTH*... ROOTED IN MY ANCIENT CHEYENNE *HERITAGE!* FOR ALL YOUR POWER, YOU CAN'T PREVAIL AGAINST ME!

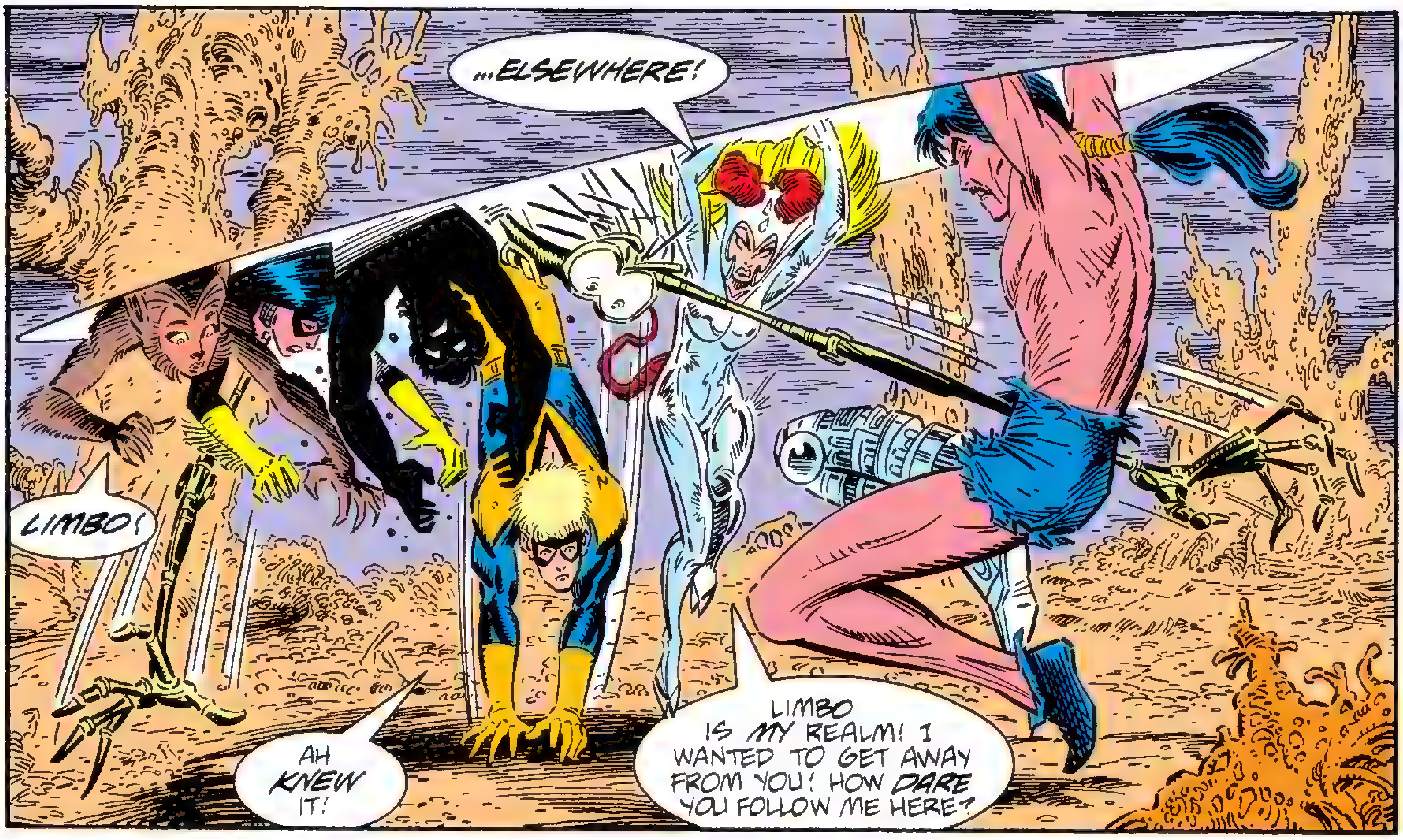

AAARGH
OVERLOAD! COULDN'T... BLOCK IT *ALL!*
ZING!
ZING!
ZING!
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO *HURT* ME... HUH?
PROBABLY... HATED TO OPEN... THAT RIFT... TOO...?
TELL THAT TO THE *X-MEN...*
...AND TO MY MURDERED *BROTHER!*
THAT *RIFT* WAS OPENED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, DARKCHILDE...
...BACK IN VIETNAM, WHEN I WAS A SOLDIER, DRIVEN TO DESPERATION... TO... *MADNESS...*
...A PERSON WOULD *HAVE* TO BE MAD TO *CONSIDER* SUCH A DEED... TO CALL UP *DEMONS...*
...TO UNLEASH SUCH *HORROR* ON EVEN THAT FOUL CORNER OF THE WORLD.
IT WAS... A MISTAKE... PANDORA'S BOX... ONCE OPENED, IMPOSSIBLE TO CLOSE...
...AND YEARS LATER, I *PAID* DEARLY FOR IT!
MY *BROTHER...* AND THE OTHERS... *THEY* PAID! *THEY* CLOSED IT-- WITH THEIR *LIVES!*

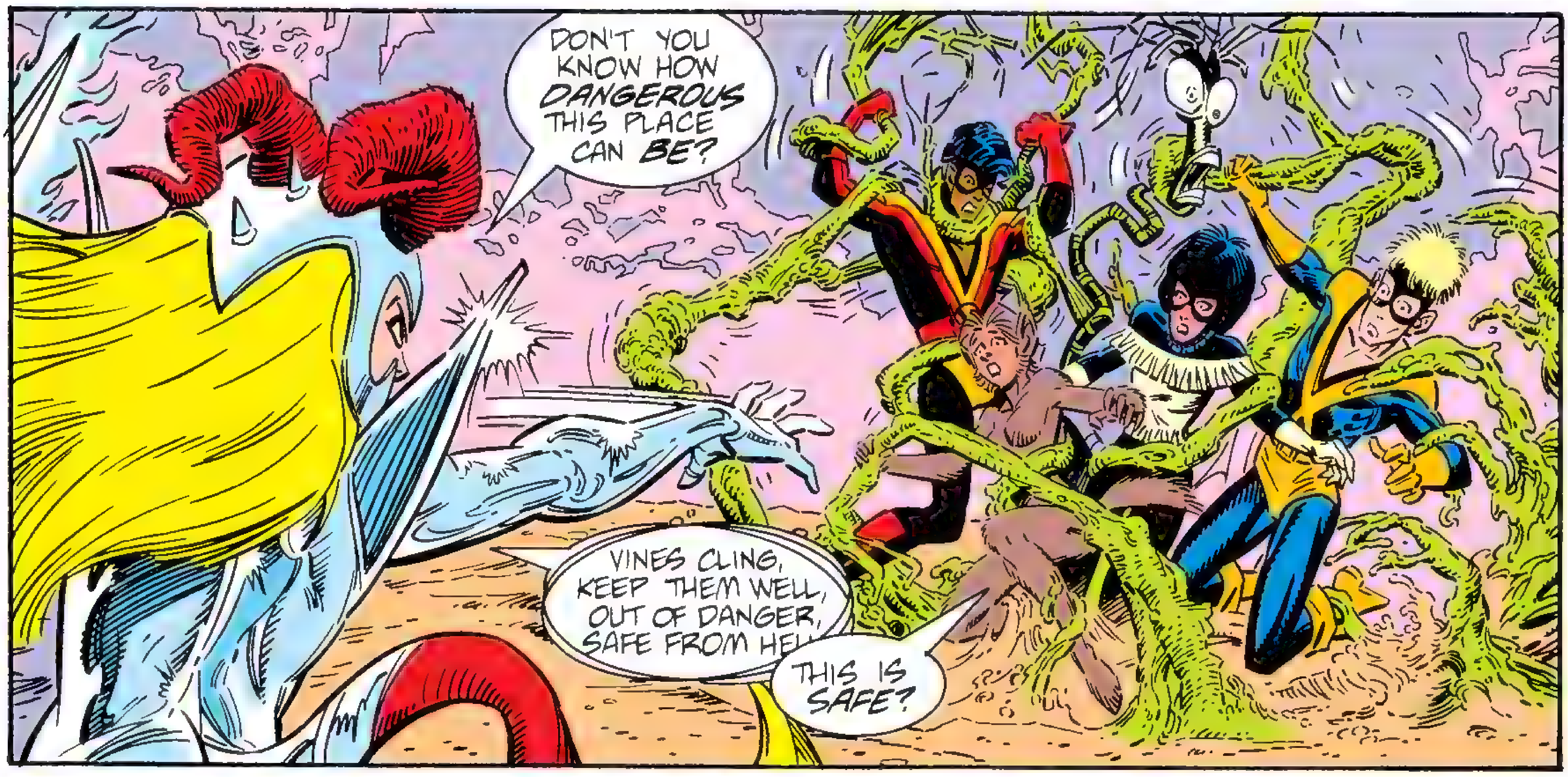

ILLYANA'S IN TROUBLE, IN SPITE OF THE PROPHESY AND HER SWORD AND WHAT SHE'S TRYING TO DO WITH IT...
...WE HAVE TO TRY AND *SAVE* HER.
HUSH, RAHNE. SAM, IF I CAN DISTRACT HER, THINK YOU CAN GET BEHIND HER AND DRAG HER OFF?
TRY ME!

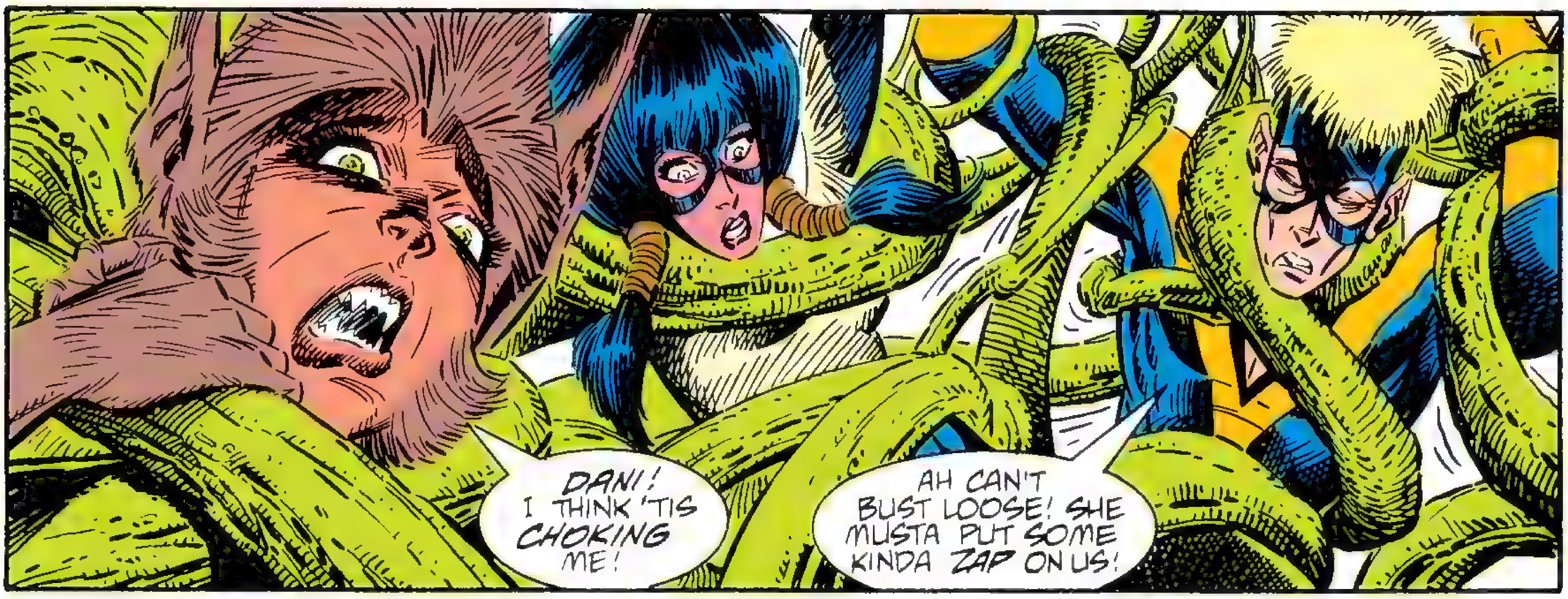

WHAT--? FORGE!
BUT--
I DIDN'T *TOUCH* YOU! I DIDN'T *CUT* YOU! IT'S WHAT *I WANTED MOST*--

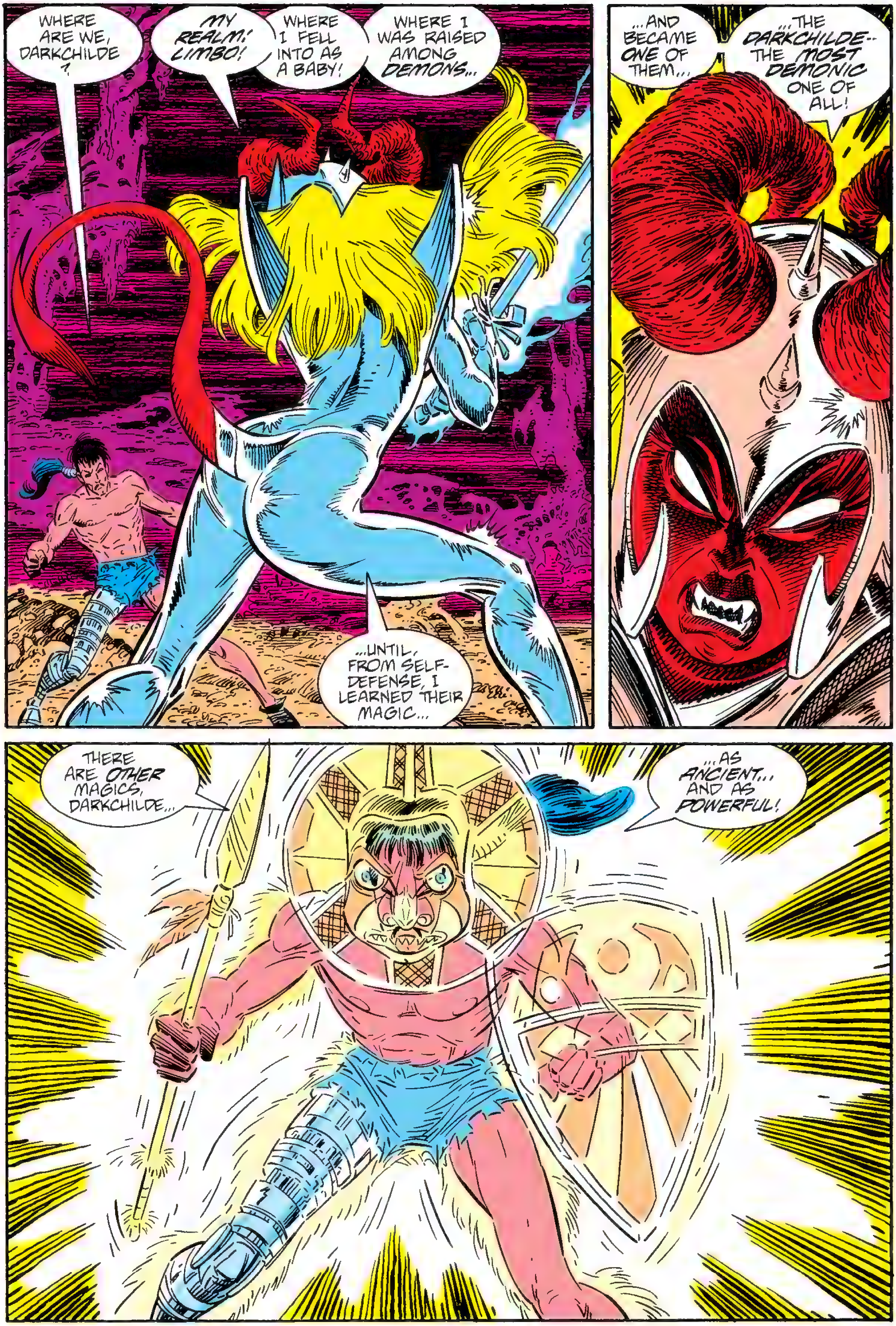

--BUT IT'S *ILLUSION*-- A *MIRAGE* PULLED FROM MY *MIND*--
--*BY YOU!*

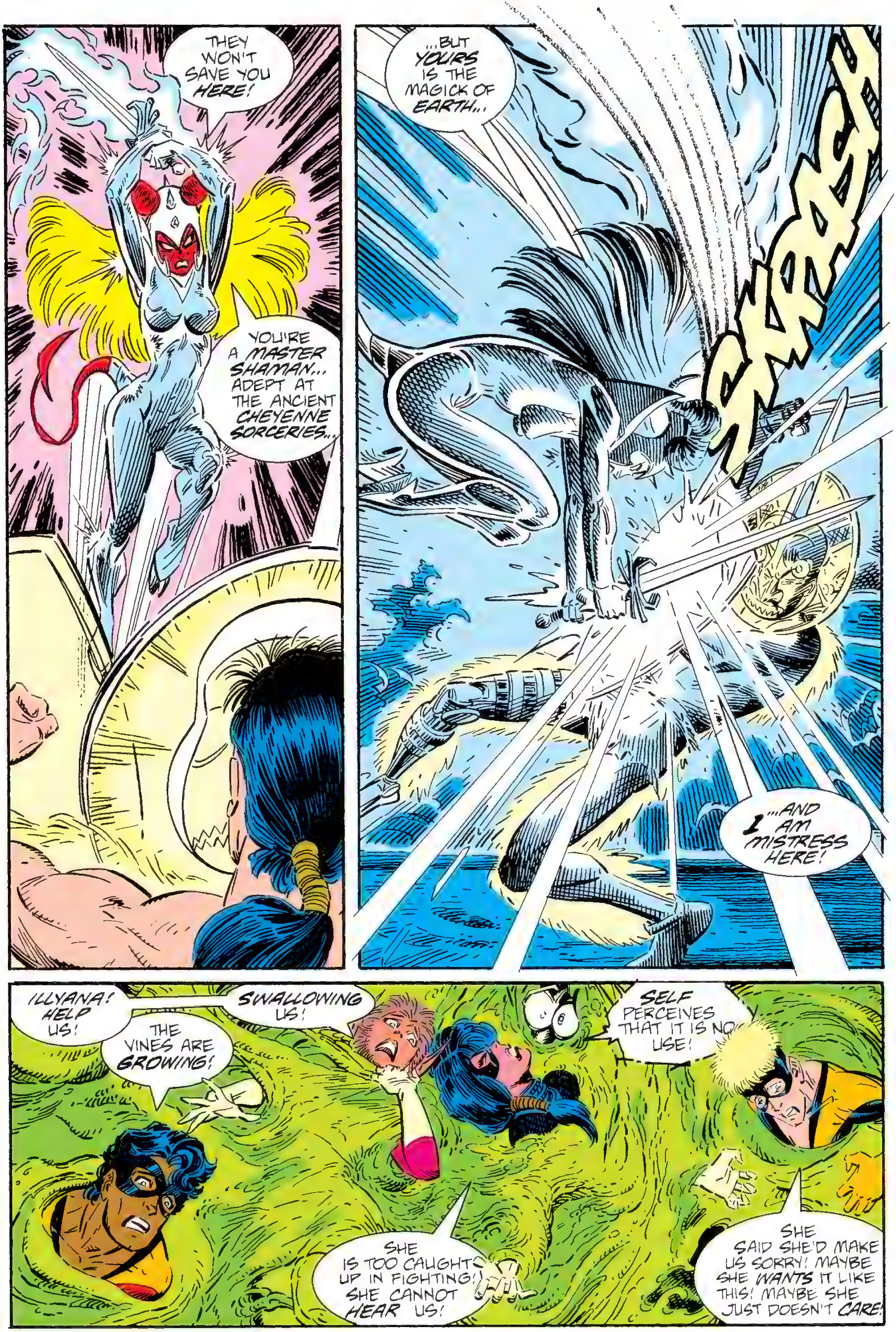

YOU BET! AN' YOU OUGHTA BE GLAD SOMEBODY'S WILLIN' TA TAKE THE HEAT--
--TA KEEP YOU FROM DOIN' STUFF YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR LATER.
I WILL MAKE YOU SORRY!
USE YER HEAD, ILLYANA. YOU CAN'T HURT ME! AH'M INVULNERABLE WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'!
AND YOU CAN'T HOLD ME! I'M A TELEPORTER...
...REMEMBER...
UH-OH!
DON'T!
THERE'S TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE HERE. I THINK WE'LL CONTINUE THIS... DISCUSSION...

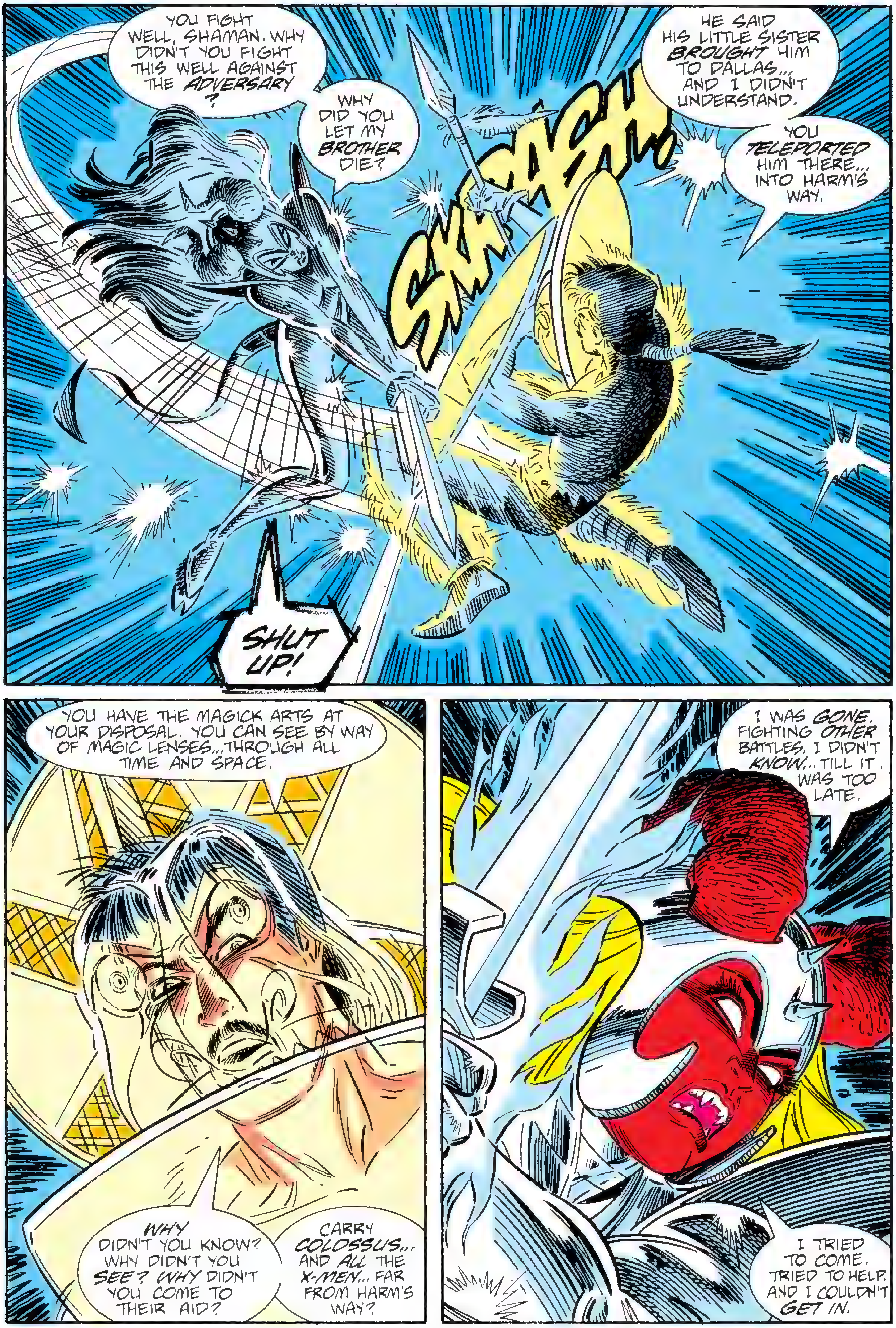

...ELSEWHERE!
LIMBO!
AH KNEW IT!
LIMBO IS MY REALM! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM YOU! HOW DARE YOU FOLLOW ME HERE?

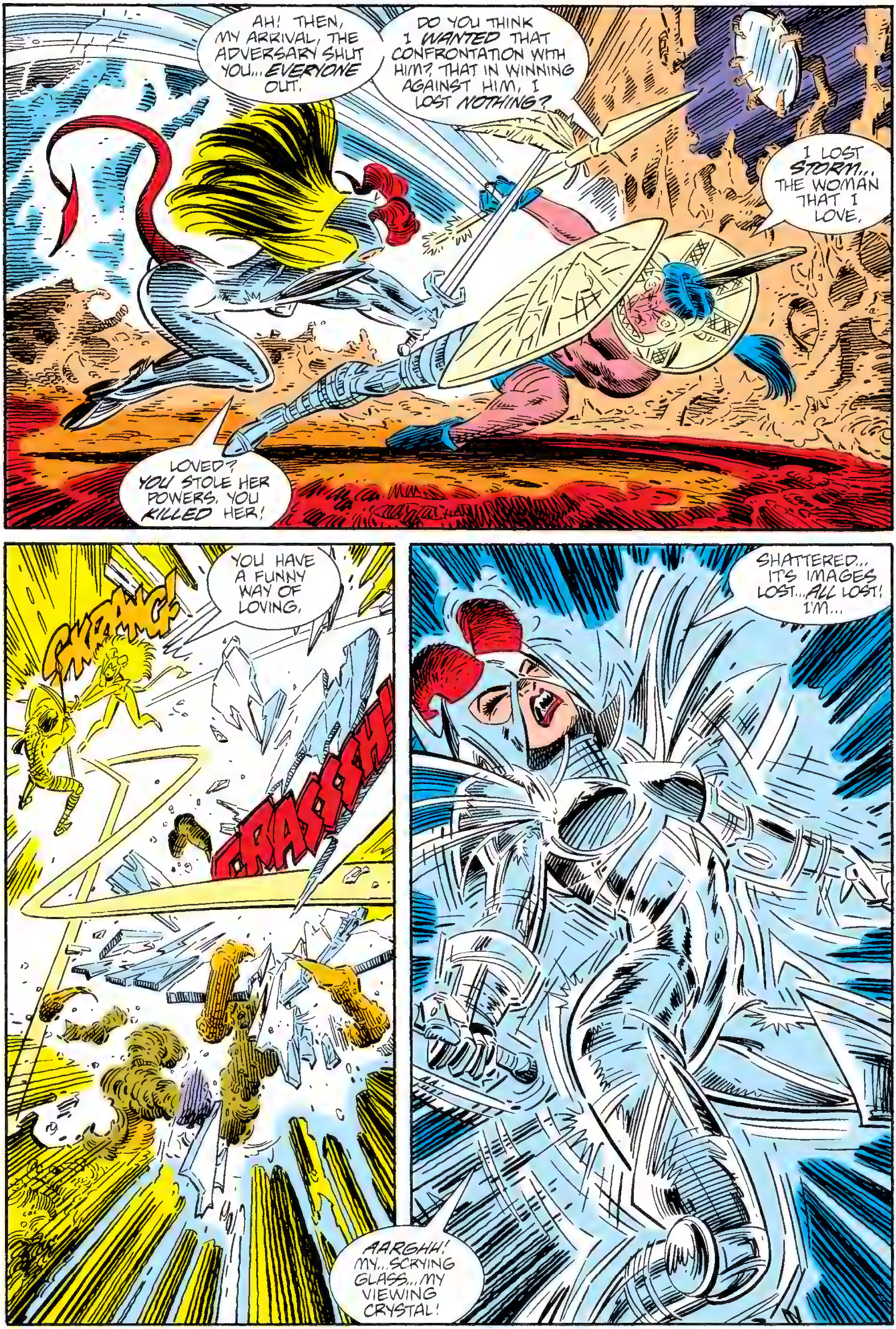

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THIS PLACE CAN BE?
VINES CLING, KEEP THEM WELL, OUT OF DANGER, SAFE FROM HEL
THIS IS SAFE?

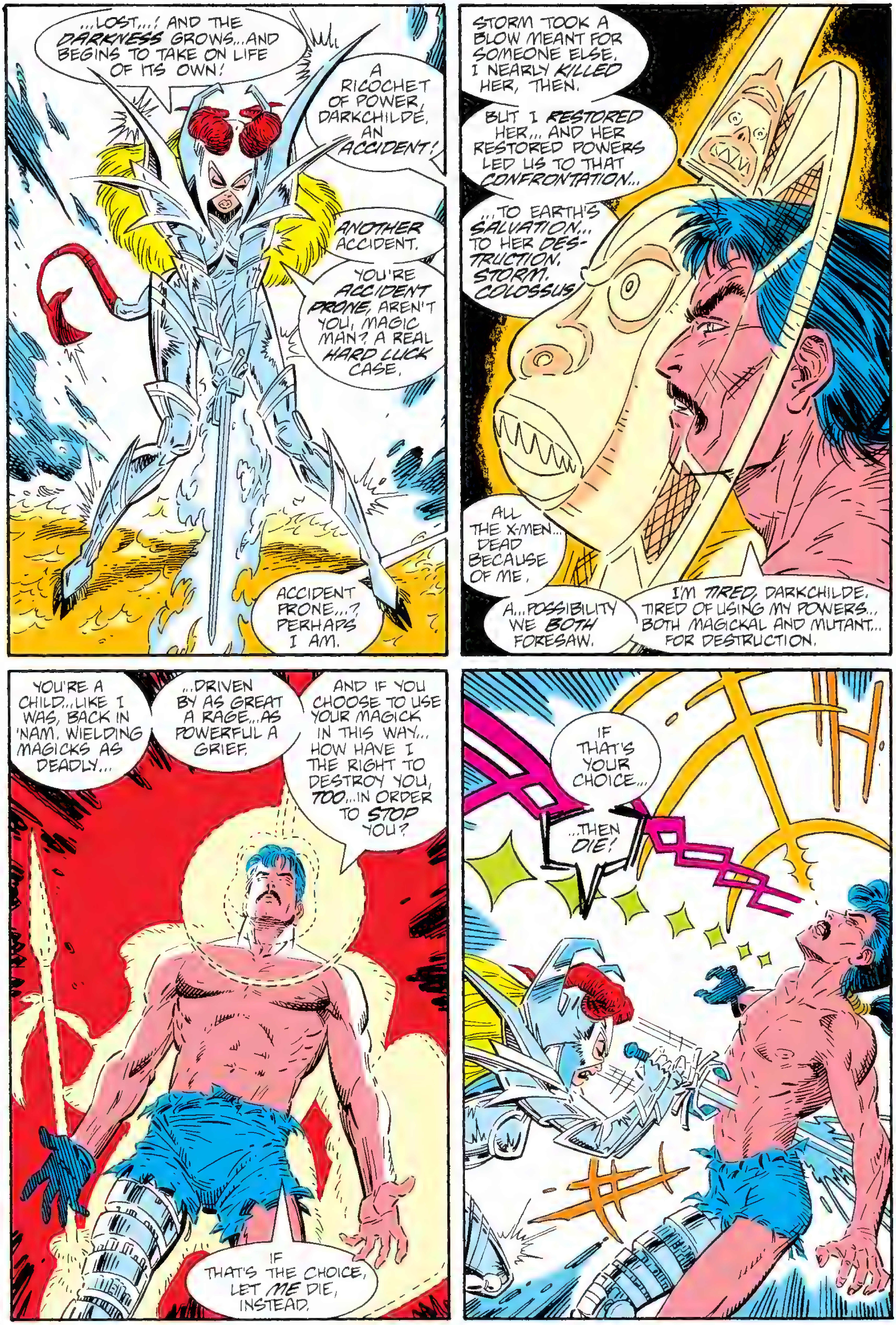

DANI! I THINK 'TIS CHOKING ME!
AH CAN'T BUST LOOSE! SHE MUSTA PUT SOME KINDA ZAP ON US!

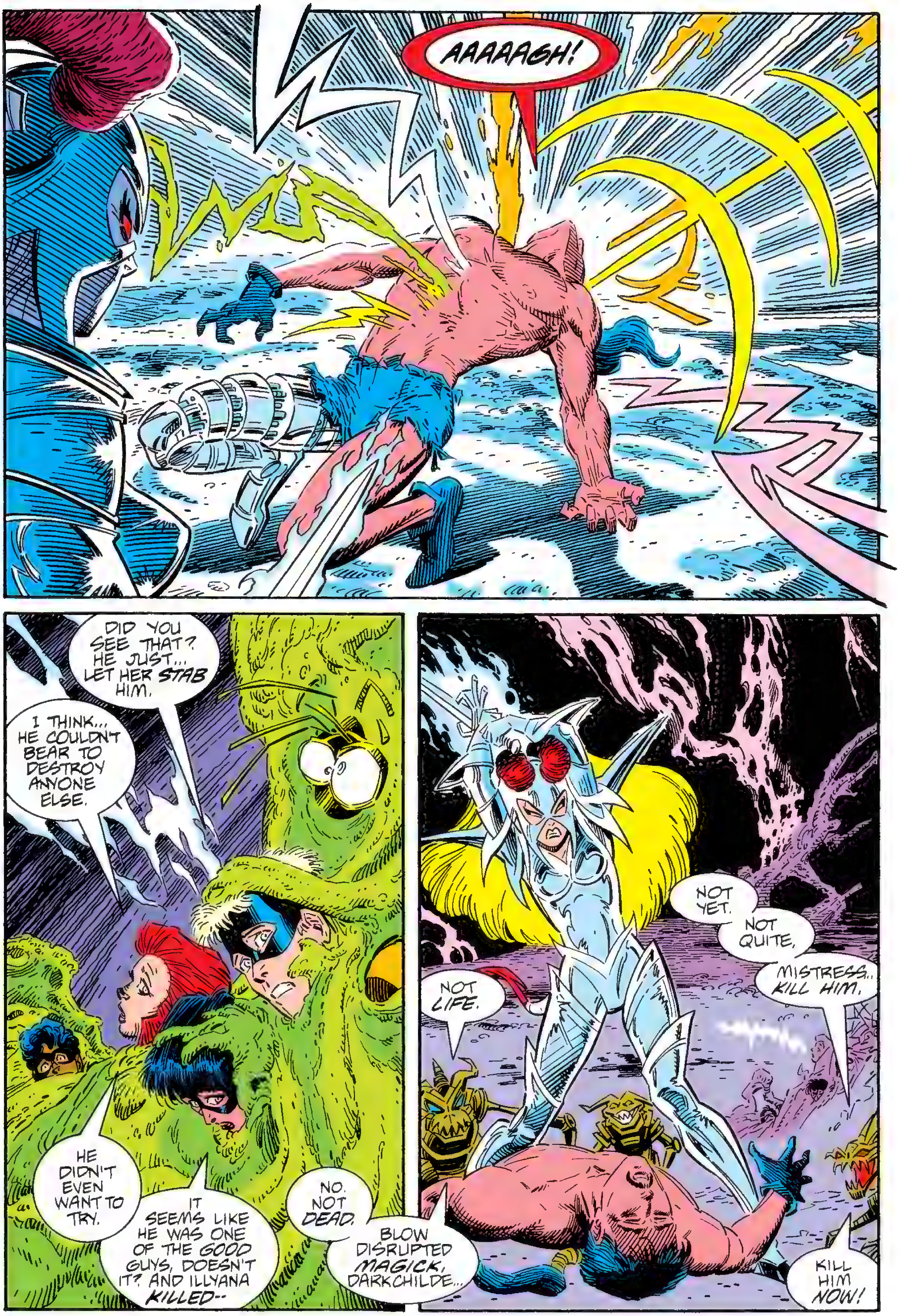

WHERE ARE WE, DARKCHILDE?
MY REALM! LIMBO!
WHERE I FELL INTO AS A BABY!
WHERE I WAS RAISED AMONG DEMONS...
...UNTIL, FROM SELF-DEFENSE, I LEARNED THEIR MAGIC...
...AND BECAME ONE OF THEM...
...THE DARKCHILDE-- THE MOST DEMONIC ONE OF ALL!
THERE ARE OTHER MAGICS, DARKCHILDE...
...AS ANCIENT... AND AS POWERFUL!

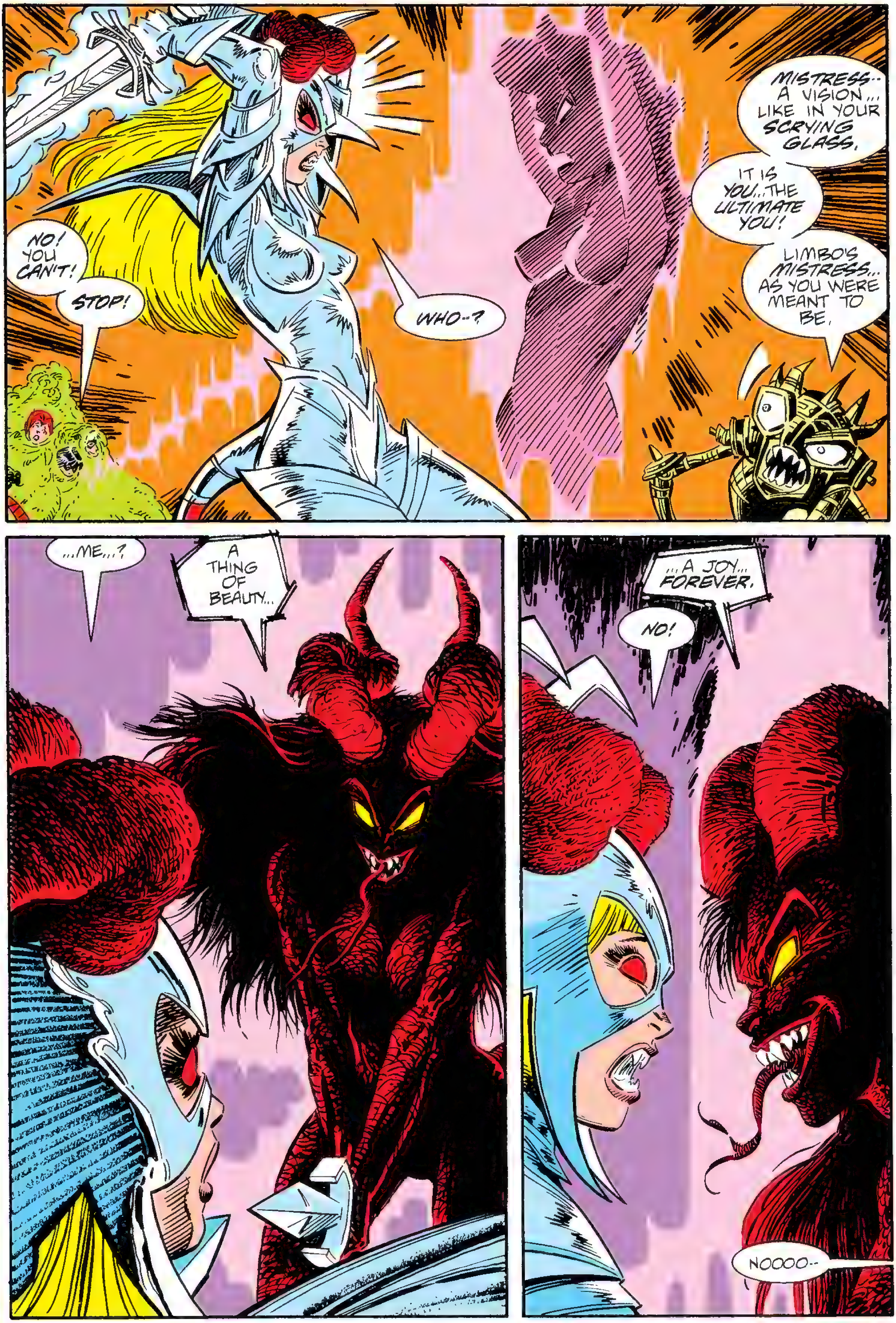

THEY WON'T SAVE YOU *HERE!*
YOU'RE A *MASTER SHAMAN...* ADEPT AT THE ANCIENT *CHEYENNE SORCERIES...*
...BUT *YOURS* IS THE MAGICK OF *EARTH...*
SKRASH
...AND *I* AM *MISTRESS HERE!*
ILLYANA! HELP US!
SWALLOWING US!
THE VINES ARE *GROWING!*
SELF PERCEIVES THAT IT IS NO USE!
SHE IS TOO CAUGHT UP IN FIGHTING! SHE CANNOT *HEAR* US!
SHE SAID SHE'D MAKE US SORRY! MAYBE SHE *WANTS* IT LIKE THIS! MAYBE SHE JUST DOESN'T *CARE!*

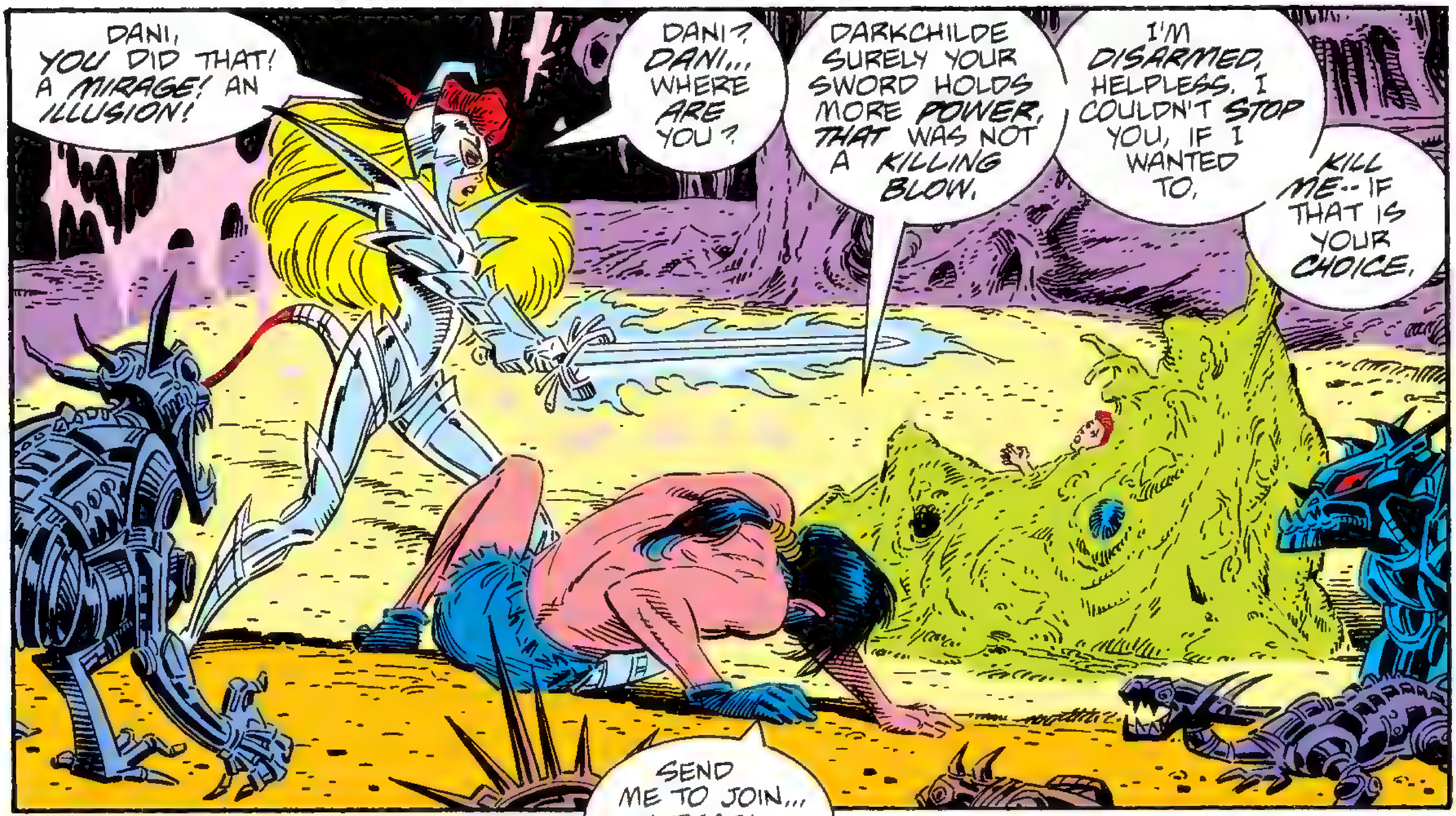

YOU FIGHT WELL, SHAMAN. WHY DIDN'T YOU FIGHT THIS WELL AGAINST THE *ADVERSARY* ?
WHY DID YOU LET MY *BROTHER* DIE?
SKRAAACH!
HE SAID HIS LITTLE SISTER *BROUGHT* HIM TO DALLAS... AND I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU *TELEPORTED* HIM THERE... INTO HARM'S WAY.
SHUT UP!
YOU HAVE THE MAGICK ARTS AT YOUR DISPOSAL. YOU CAN SEE BY WAY OF MAGIC LENSES... THROUGH ALL TIME AND SPACE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU KNOW? WHY DIDN'T YOU *SEE? WHY* DIDN'T YOU COME TO THEIR AID?
CARRY *COLOSSUS*... AND *ALL* THE *X-MEN*... FAR FROM HARM'S WAY?
I WAS *GONE*. FIGHTING *OTHER* BATTLES. I DIDN'T *KNOW*... TILL IT WAS TOO LATE.
I TRIED TO COME. TRIED TO HELP. AND I COULDN'T *GET IN*.

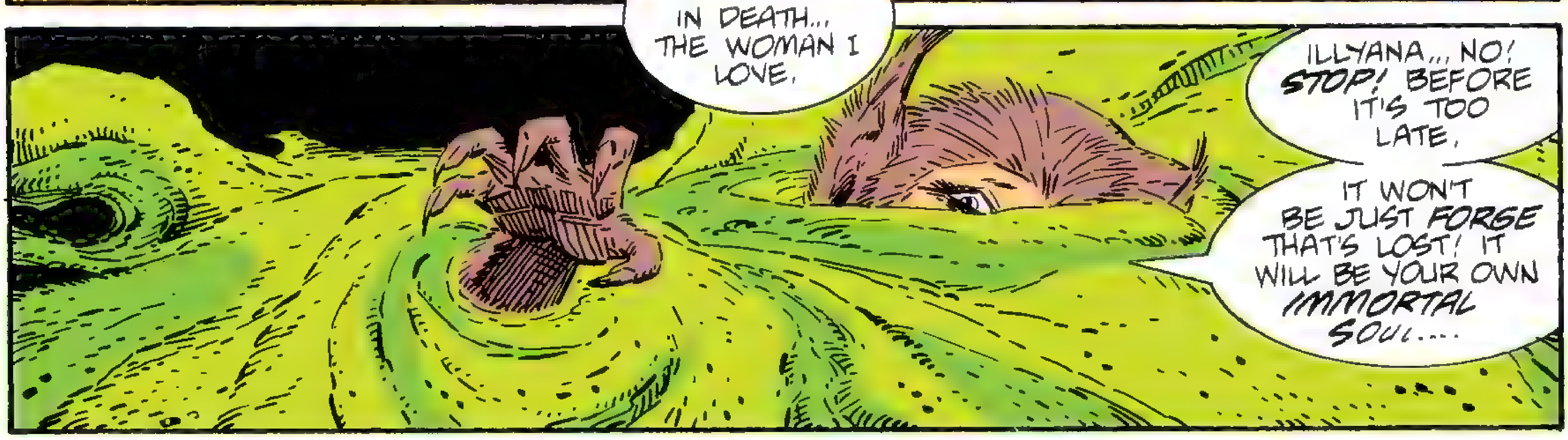

AH! THEN, MY ARRIVAL, THE ADVERSARY SHUT YOU... *EVERYONE* OUT.
DO YOU THINK I *WANTED* THAT CONFRONTATION WITH HIM? THAT IN WINNING AGAINST HIM, I LOST *NOTHING?*
I LOST *STORM*... THE WOMAN THAT I LOVE.
LOVED? *YOU* STOLE HER POWERS. YOU *KILLED* HER!
SKRANG!
YOU HAVE A FUNNY WAY OF LOVING.
CRASSSH!
AARGHH! MY... SCRYING GLASS... MY VIEWING CRYSTAL!
SHATTERED... IT'S IMAGES LOST... *ALL* LOST! I'M...

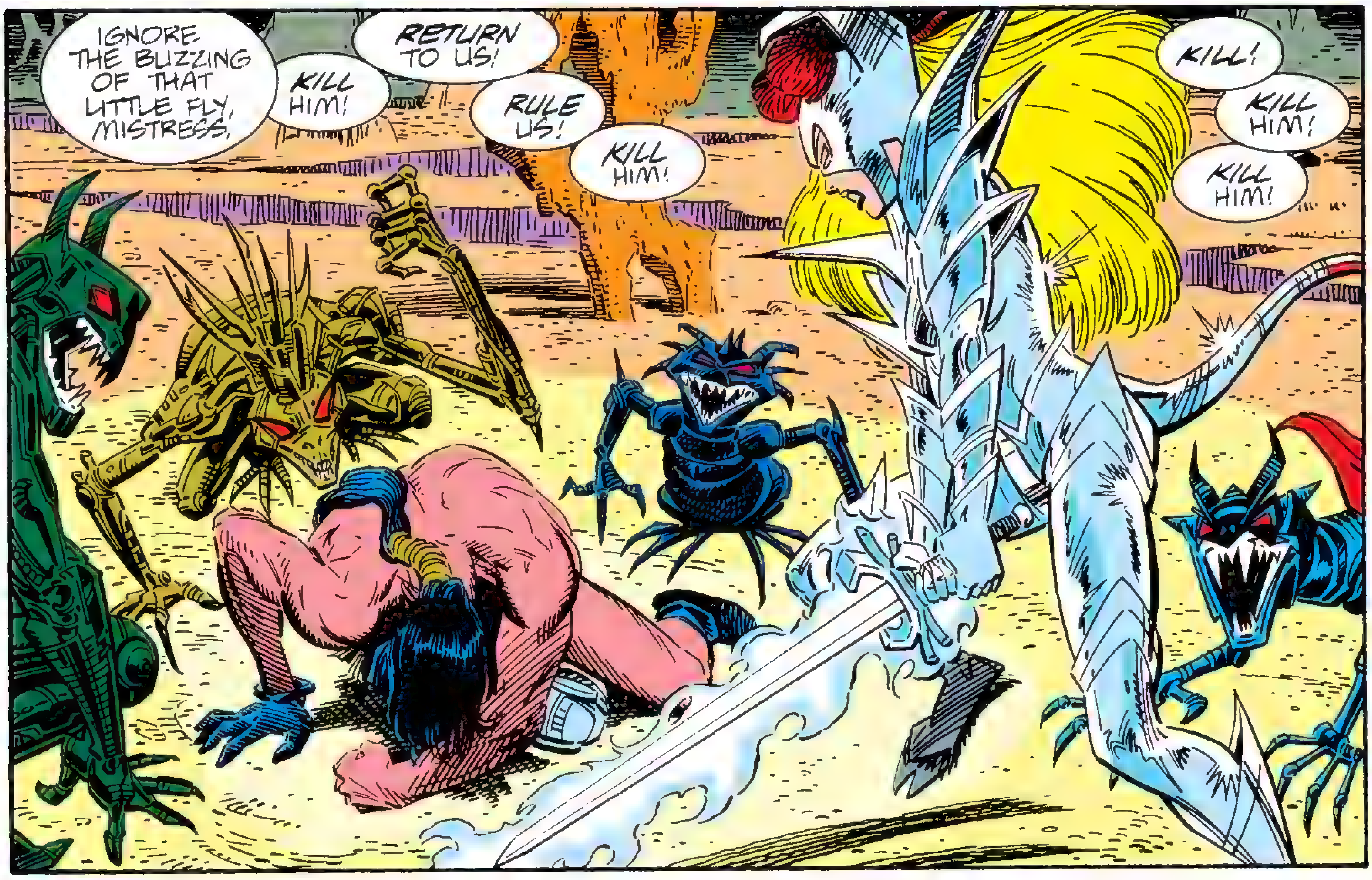

...LOST...! AND THE *DARKNESS* GROWS...AND BEGINS TO TAKE ON LIFE OF ITS OWN!
A RICOCHET OF POWER, DARKCHILDE. AN *ACCIDENT!*
ANOTHER ACCIDENT.
YOU'RE *ACCIDENT PRONE,* AREN'T YOU, MAGIC MAN? A REAL *HARD LUCK* CASE.
ACCIDENT PRONE...? PERHAPS I AM.
STORM TOOK A BLOW MEANT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I NEARLY *KILLED* HER, THEN.
BUT I *RESTORED* HER... AND HER RESTORED POWERS LED US TO THAT *CONFRONTATION...*
...TO EARTH'S *SALVATION...* TO HER *DESTRUCTION. STORM. COLOSSUS.*
ALL THE X-MEN... DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.
A...POSSIBILITY WE *BOTH* FORESAW.
I'M *TIRED,* DARKCHILDE. TIRED OF USING MY POWERS... BOTH MAGICKAL AND MUTANT... FOR DESTRUCTION.
YOU'RE A CHILD...LIKE I WAS, BACK IN 'NAM. WIELDING MAGICKS AS DEADLY...
...DRIVEN BY AS GREAT A RAGE...AS POWERFUL A GRIEF.
AND IF YOU CHOOSE TO USE YOUR MAGICK IN THIS WAY... HOW HAVE I THE RIGHT TO DESTROY YOU, *TOO*...IN ORDER TO *STOP* YOU?
IF THAT'S THE CHOICE, LET *ME* DIE, INSTEAD.
IF THAT'S YOUR CHOICE...
...THEN *DIE!*

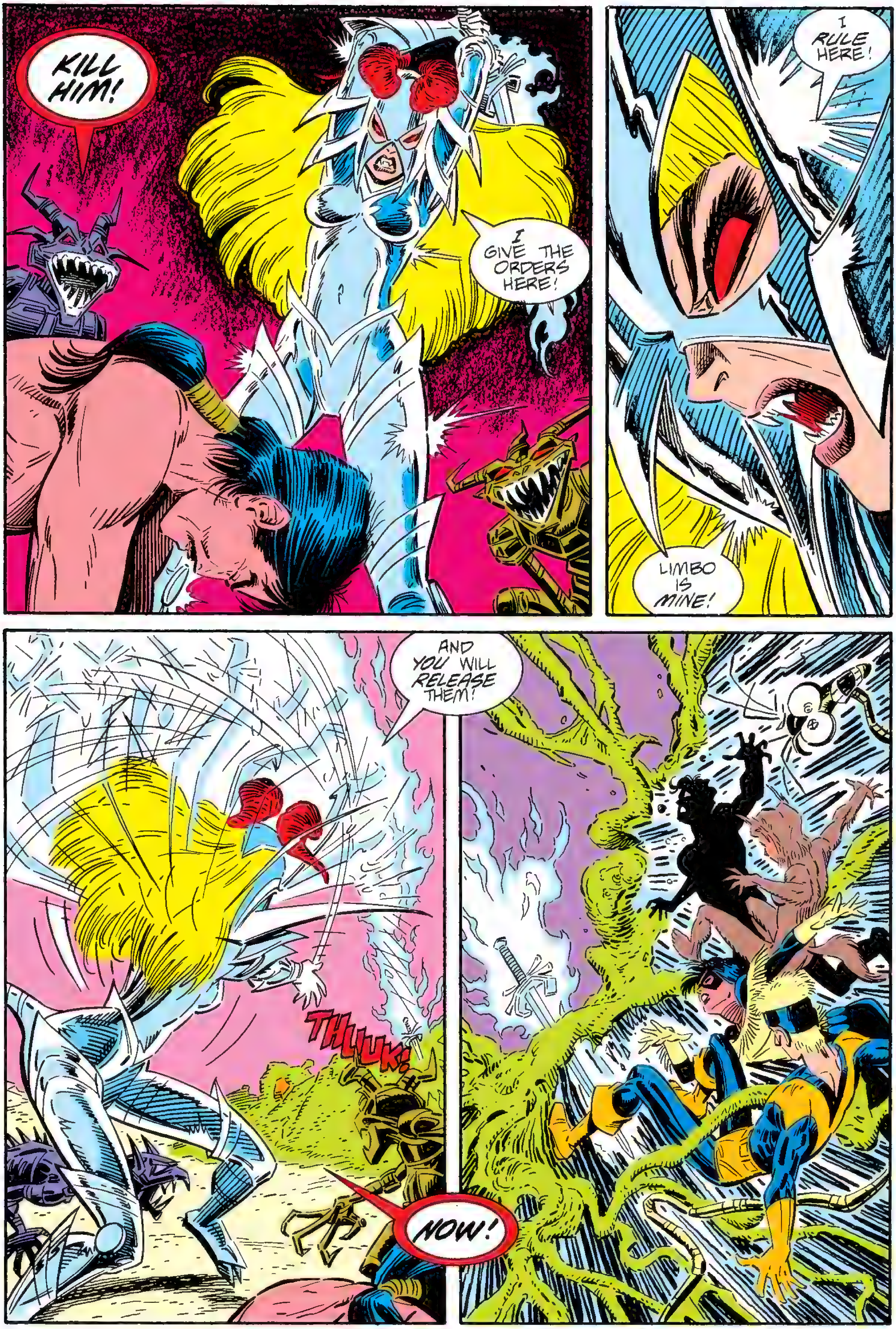

AAAAAGH!
DID YOU SEE THAT? HE JUST... LET HER *STAB* HIM.
I THINK... HE COULDN'T BEAR TO DESTROY ANYONE ELSE.
HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO TRY.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS ONE OF THE *GOOD* GUYS, DOESN'T IT? AND ILLYANA *KILLED*--
NO. NOT *DEAD*.
BLOW DISRUPTED *MAGICK*, DARKCHILDE...
NOT *LIFE*.
NOT YET.
NOT QUITE,
MISTRESS.. *KILL HIM*.
KILL HIM *NOW!*

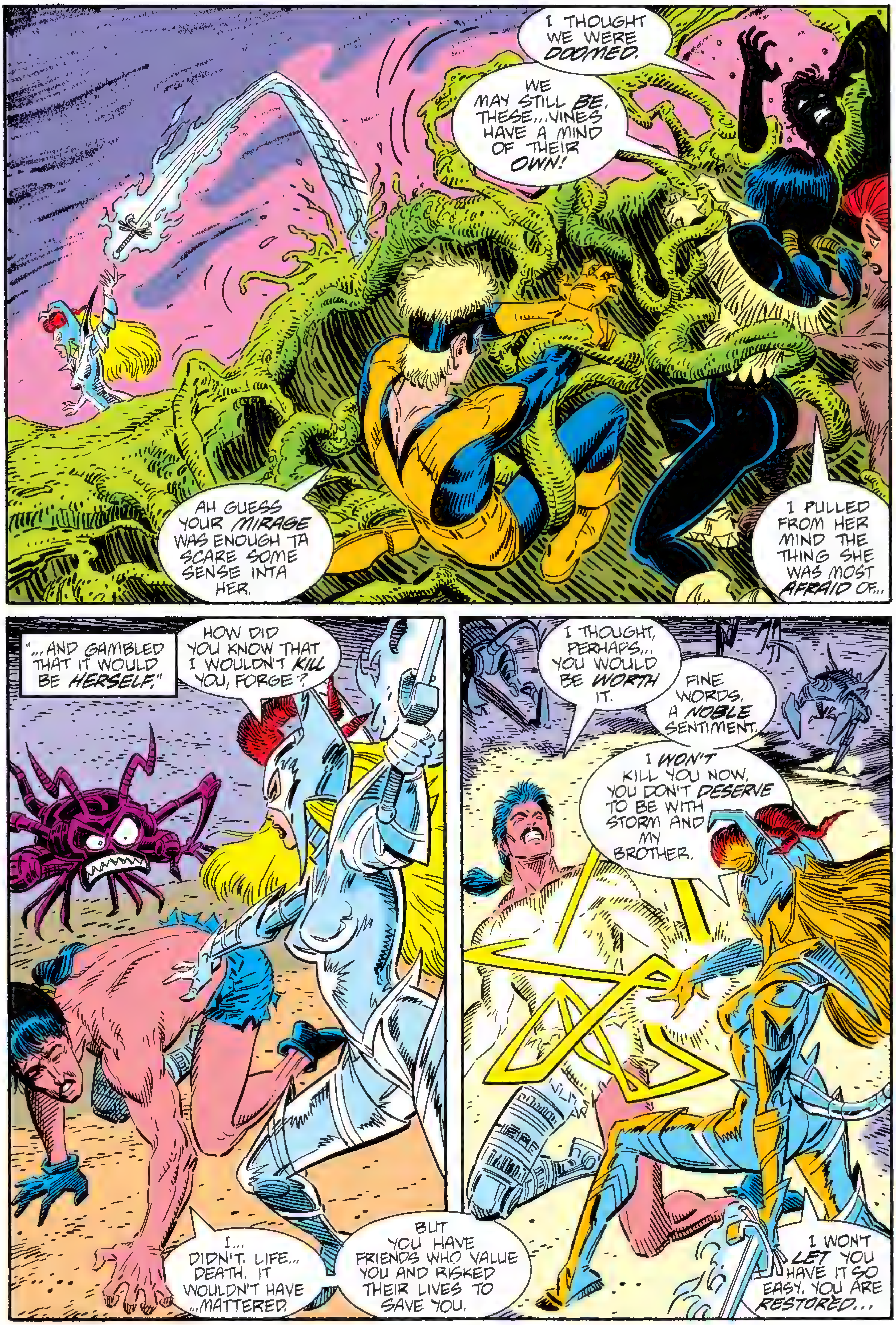

NO! YOU CAN'T!
STOP!
WHO--?
MISTRESS.. A VISION... LIKE IN YOUR SCRYING GLASS.
IT IS YOU...THE ULTIMATE YOU!
LIMBO'S MISTRESS... AS YOU WERE MEANT TO BE.
...ME...?
A THING OF BEAUTY...
...A JOY... FOREVER.
NO!
NOOOO--

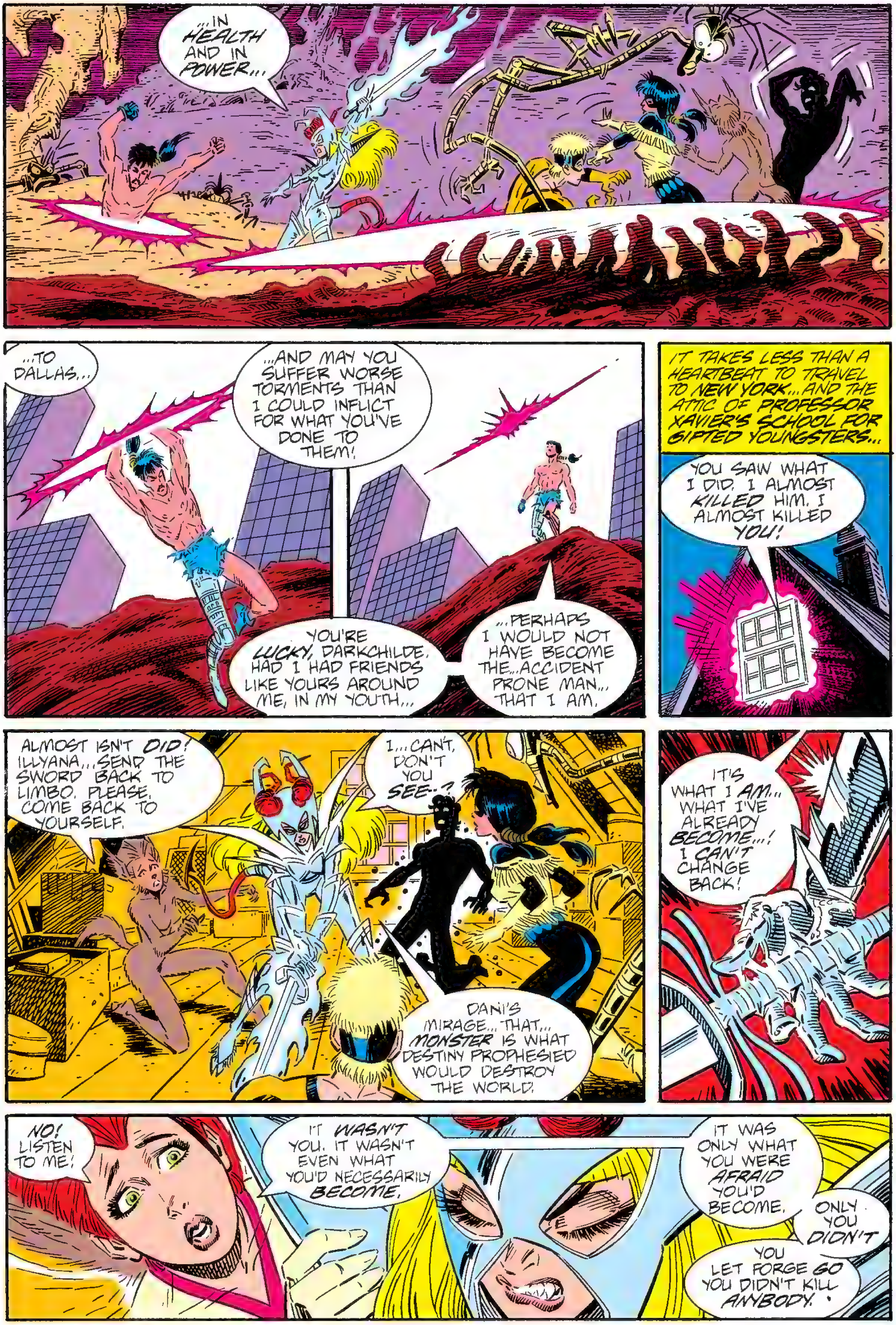

DANI, YOU DID THAT! A MIRAGE! AN ILLUSION!
DANI? DANI... WHERE ARE YOU?
DARKCHILDE SURELY YOUR SWORD HOLDS MORE POWER, THAT WAS NOT A KILLING BLOW.
I'M DISARMED, HELPLESS. I COULDN'T STOP YOU, IF I WANTED TO.
KILL ME-- IF THAT IS YOUR CHOICE.

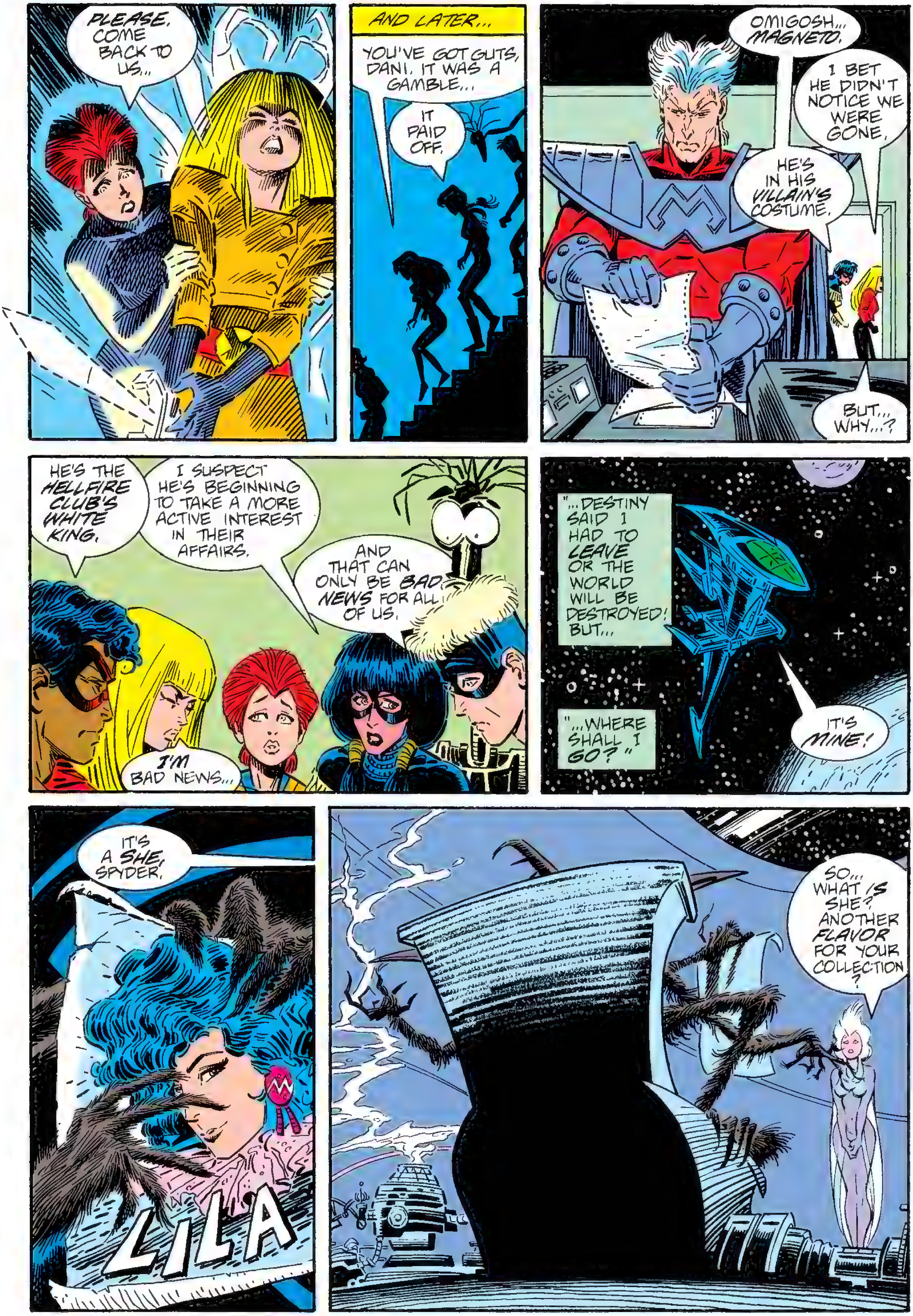

SEND ME TO JOIN... IN DEATH... THE WOMAN I LOVE.
ILLYANA... NO! STOP! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
IT WON'T BE JUST FORGE THAT'S LOST! IT WILL BE YOUR OWN IMMORTAL SOUL....

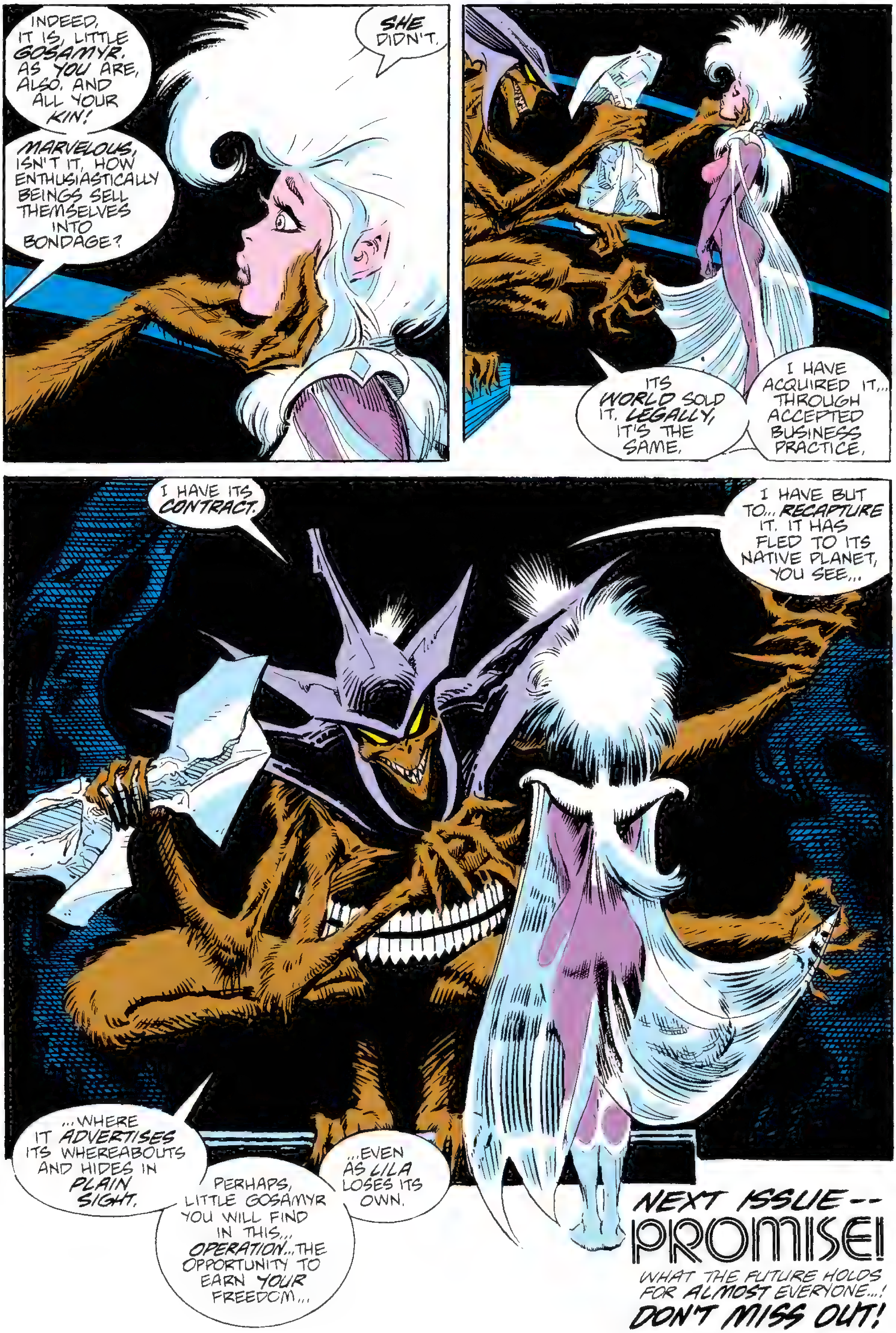

IGNORE THE BUZZING OF THAT LITTLE FLY, MISTRESS.
KILL HIM!
RETURN TO US!
RULE US!
KILL HIM!
KILL!
KILL HIM!
KILL HIM!


KILL HIM!
I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE!
I RULE HERE!
LIMBO IS MINE!
AND YOU WILL RELEASE THEM!
THUUK!
NOW!


I THOUGHT WE WERE *DOOMED.*
WE MAY STILL *BE.* THESE... VINES HAVE A MIND OF THEIR *OWN!*
AH GUESS YOUR *MIRAGE* WAS ENOUGH TA SCARE SOME SENSE INTA HER.
I PULLED FROM HER MIND THE THING SHE WAS MOST *AFRAID* OF...
"...AND GAMBLED THAT IT WOULD BE *HERSELF.*"
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T *KILL* YOU, FORGE?
I... DIDN'T. LIFE... DEATH. IT WOULDN'T HAVE ...MATTERED.
BUT YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO VALUE YOU AND RISKED THEIR LIVES TO SAVE YOU.
I THOUGHT, PERHAPS... YOU WOULD BE *WORTH* IT.
FINE WORDS, A *NOBLE* SENTIMENT.
I *WON'T* KILL YOU NOW. YOU DON'T *DESERVE* TO BE WITH STORM AND MY BROTHER.
I WON'T *LET* YOU HAVE IT SO EASY. YOU ARE *RESTORED...*


...IN HEALTH AND IN POWER...
...TO DALLAS...
...AND MAY YOU SUFFER WORSE TORMENTS THAN I COULD INFLICT FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO THEM!
YOU'RE LUCKY, DARKCHILDE. HAD I HAD FRIENDS LIKE YOURS AROUND ME, IN MY YOUTH...
...PERHAPS I WOULD NOT HAVE BECOME THE...ACCIDENT PRONE MAN... THAT I AM.
IT TAKES LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK...AND THE ATTIC OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
YOU SAW WHAT I DID. I ALMOST KILLED HIM. I ALMOST KILLED YOU!
ALMOST ISN'T DID! ILLYANA... SEND THE SWORD BACK TO LIMBO. PLEASE. COME BACK TO YOURSELF.
I... CAN'T. DON'T YOU SEE..?
DANI'S MIRAGE... THAT... MONSTER IS WHAT DESTINY PROPHESIED WOULD DESTROY THE WORLD.
IT'S WHAT I AM... WHAT I'VE ALREADY BECOME...! I CAN'T CHANGE BACK!
NO! LISTEN TO ME!
IT WASN'T YOU. IT WASN'T EVEN WHAT YOU'D NECESSARILY BECOME.
IT WAS ONLY WHAT YOU WERE AFRAID YOU'D BECOME.
ONLY YOU DIDN'T
YOU LET FORGE GO YOU DIDN'T KILL ANYBODY.


PLEASE, COME BACK TO US...
AND LATER...
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, DANI. IT WAS A GAMBLE...
IT PAID OFF.
OMIGOSH... MAGNETO.
I BET HE DIDN'T NOTICE WE WERE GONE.
HE'S IN HIS VILLAIN'S COSTUME.
BUT... WHY...?
HE'S THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S WHITE KING.
I SUSPECT HE'S BEGINNING TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN THEIR AFFAIRS.
AND THAT CAN ONLY BE BAD NEWS FOR ALL OF US.
I'M BAD NEWS...
"...DESTINY SAID I HAD TO LEAVE OR THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED! BUT...
"...WHERE SHALL I GO?"
IT'S MINE!
IT'S A SHE, SPYDER.
LILA
SO... WHAT IS SHE? ANOTHER FLAVOR FOR YOUR COLLECTION?


INDEED, IT IS, LITTLE *GOSAMYR*. AS *YOU* ARE, ALSO. AND ALL YOUR *KIN!*
MARVELOUS, ISN'T IT, HOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY BEINGS SELL THEMSELVES INTO BONDAGE?
SHE DIDN'T.
ITS *WORLD* SOLD IT. *LEGALLY*, IT'S THE SAME.
I HAVE ACQUIRED IT... THROUGH ACCEPTED BUSINESS PRACTICE.
I HAVE ITS *CONTRACT*.
I HAVE BUT TO... *RECAPTURE* IT. IT HAS FLED TO ITS NATIVE PLANET, YOU SEE...
...WHERE IT *ADVERTISES* ITS WHEREABOUTS AND HIDES IN *PLAIN SIGHT*.
PERHAPS, LITTLE GOSAMYR YOU WILL FIND IN THIS... *OPERATION*... THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN *YOUR* FREEDOM...
...EVEN AS *LILA* LOSES ITS OWN.

NEXT ISSUE--

PROMISE!

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR ***ALMOST*** *EVERYONE...!*

DON'T MISS OUT!

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THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™
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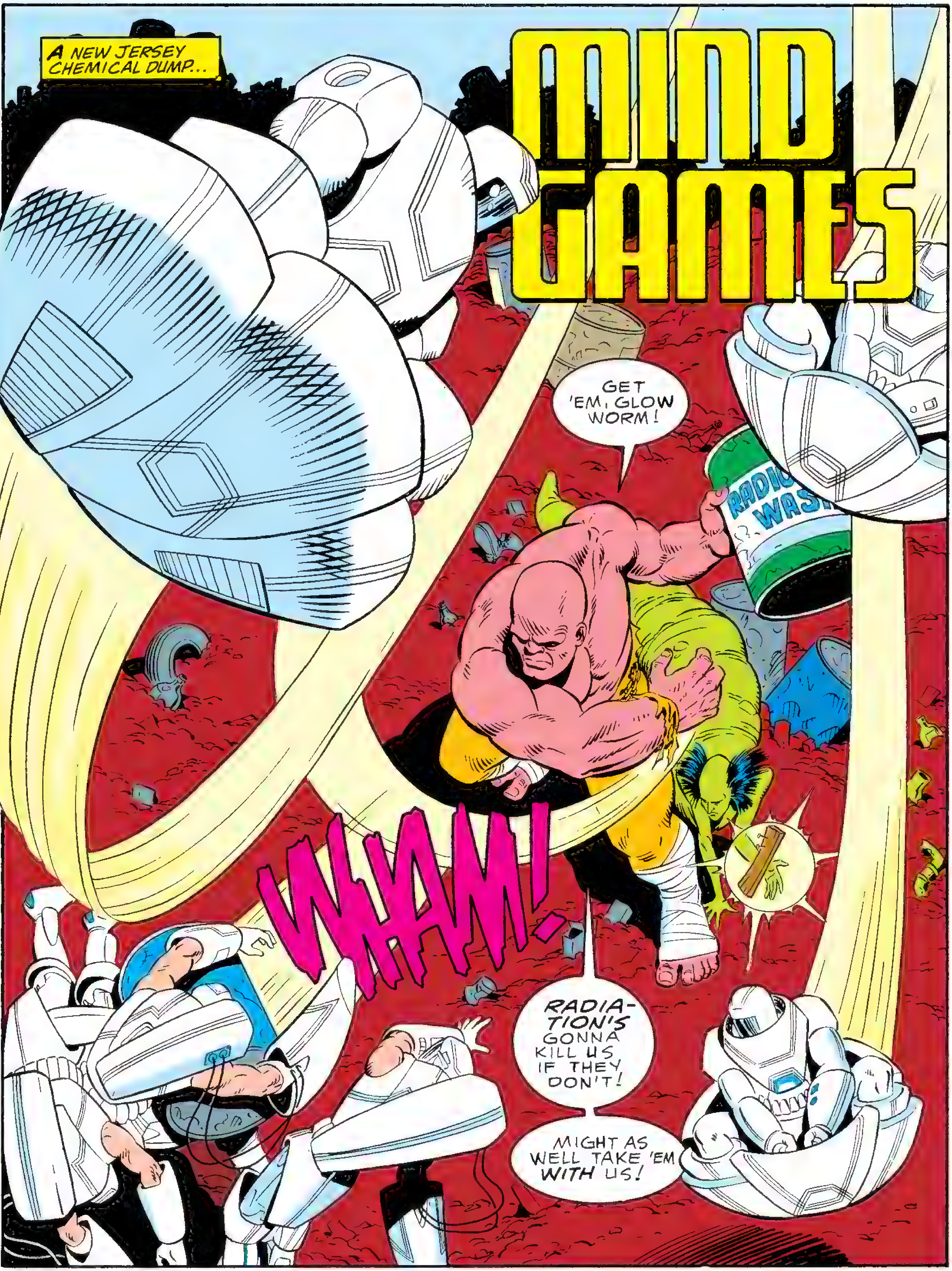
MIND GAMES


A NEW JERSEY CHEMICAL DUMP...
MIND GAMES
GET 'EM, GLOW WORM!
RADIO WAS
WHAM!
RADIATION'S GONNA KILL US IF THEY DON'T!
MIGHT AS WELL TAKE 'EM WITH US!

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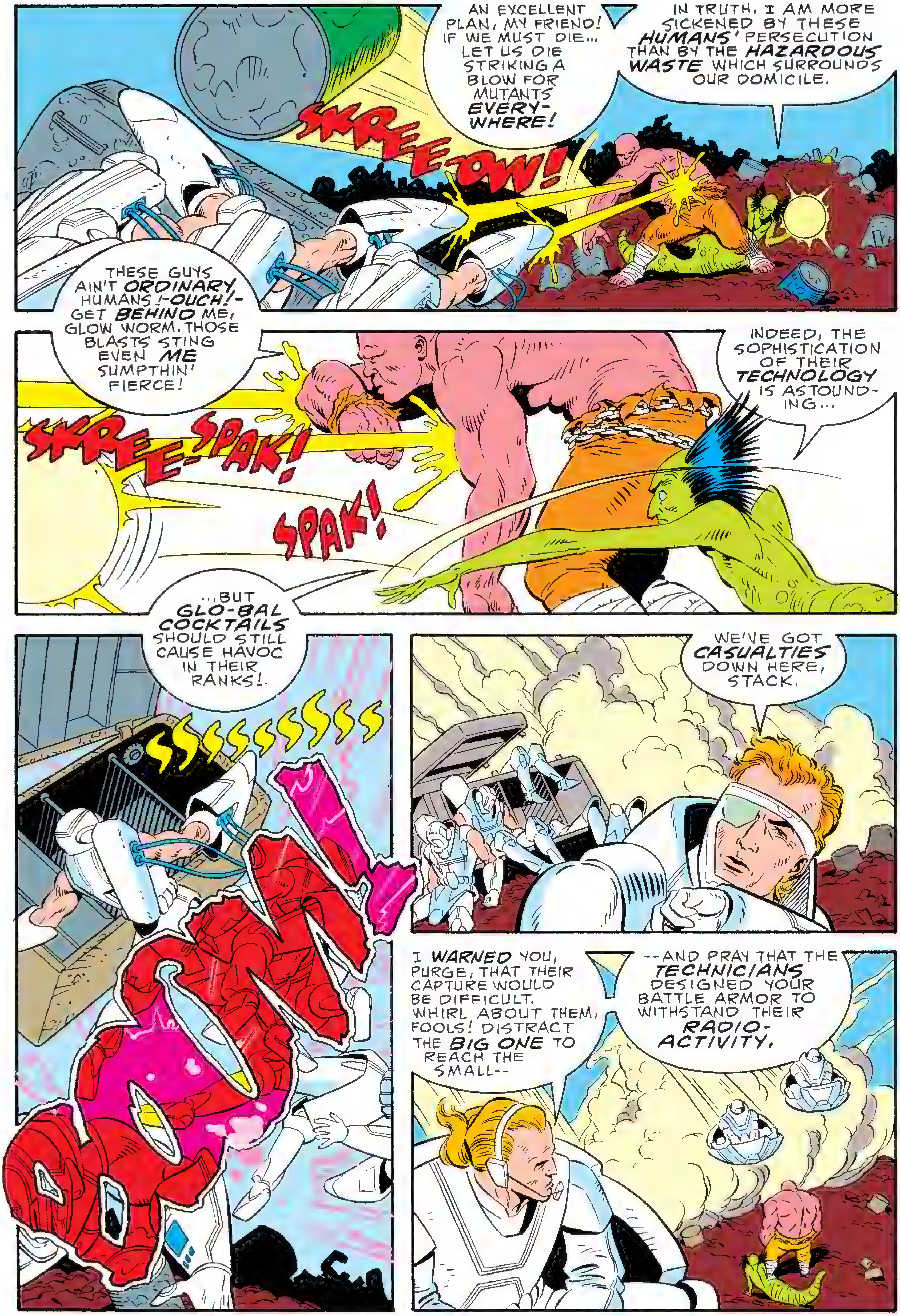
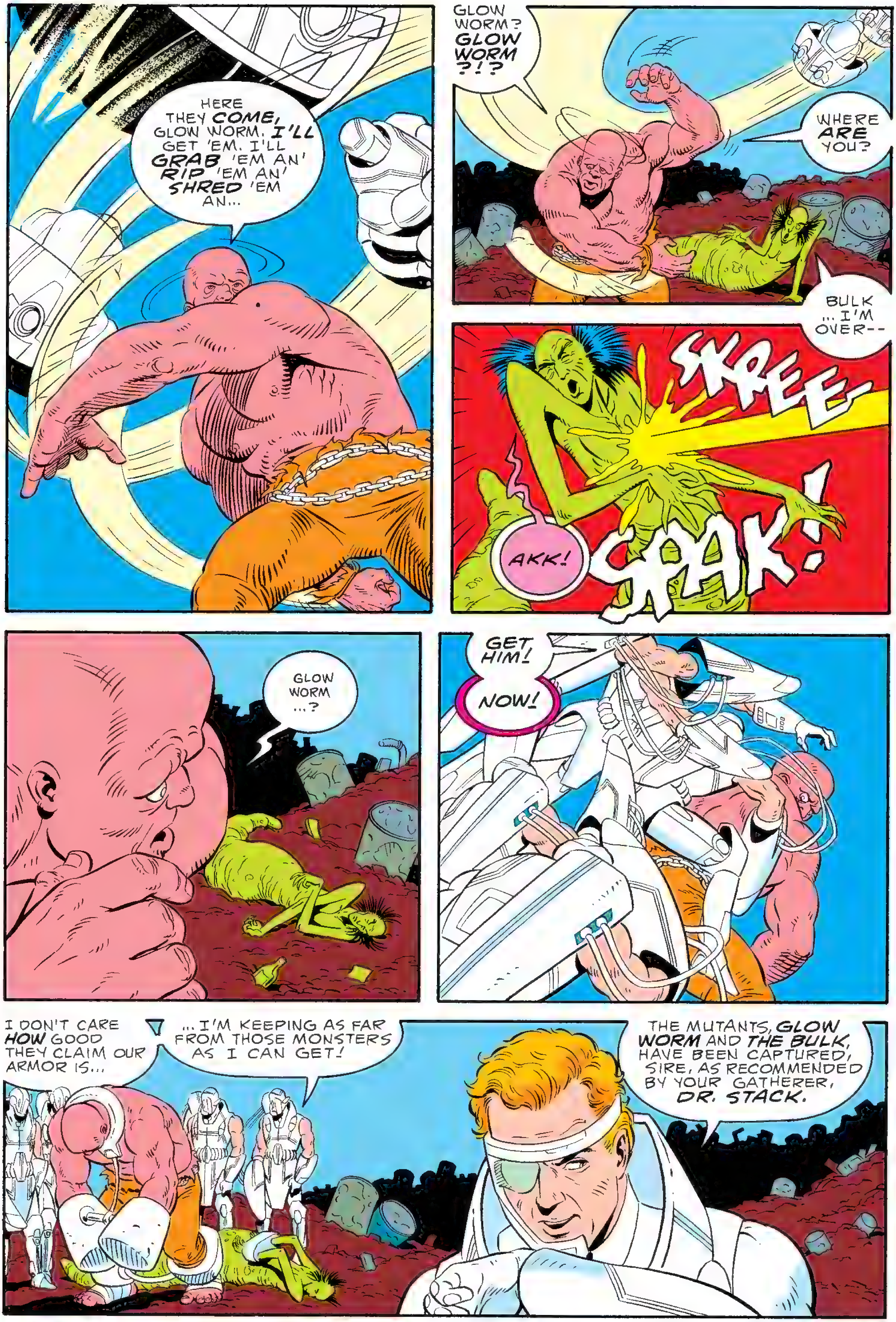
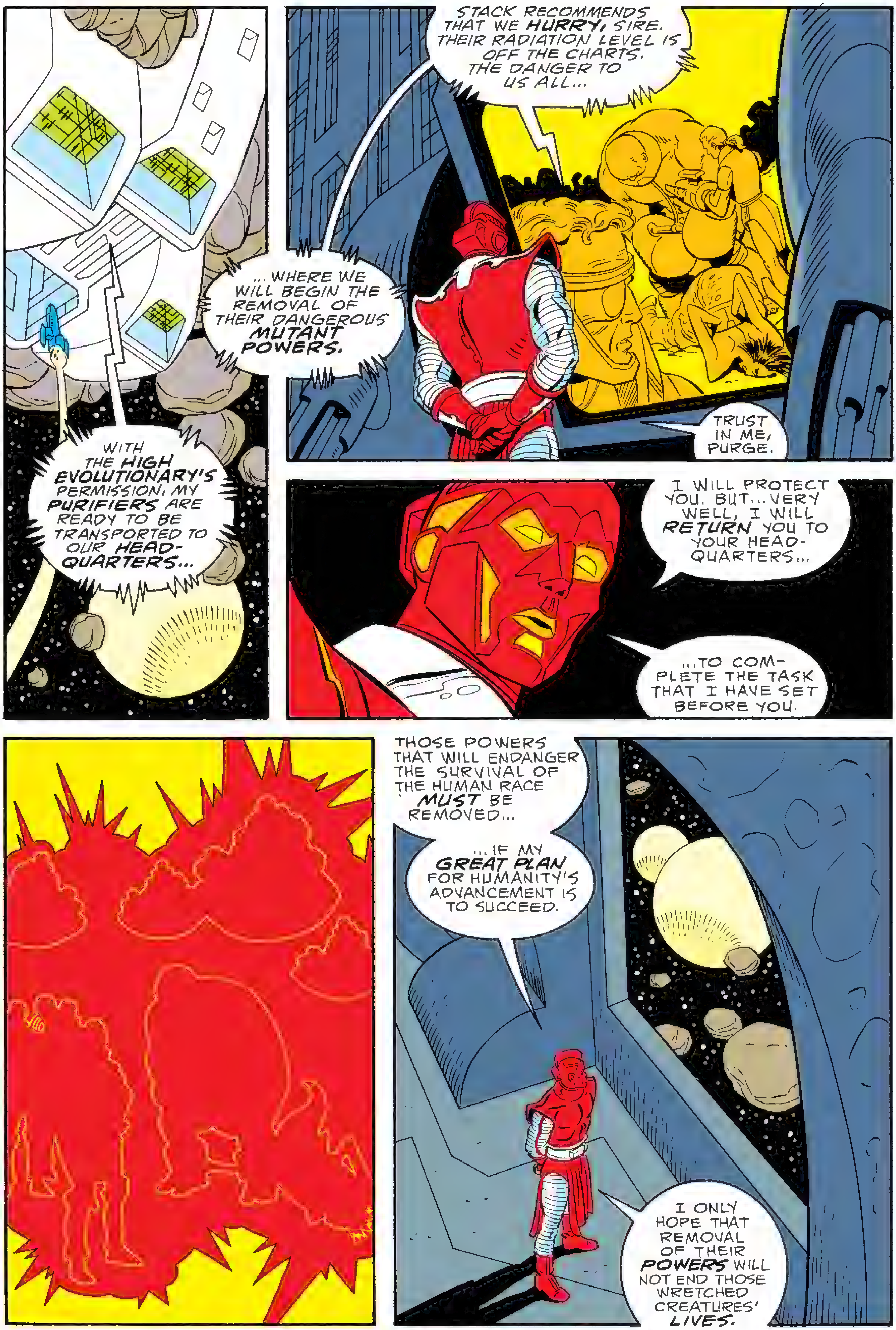
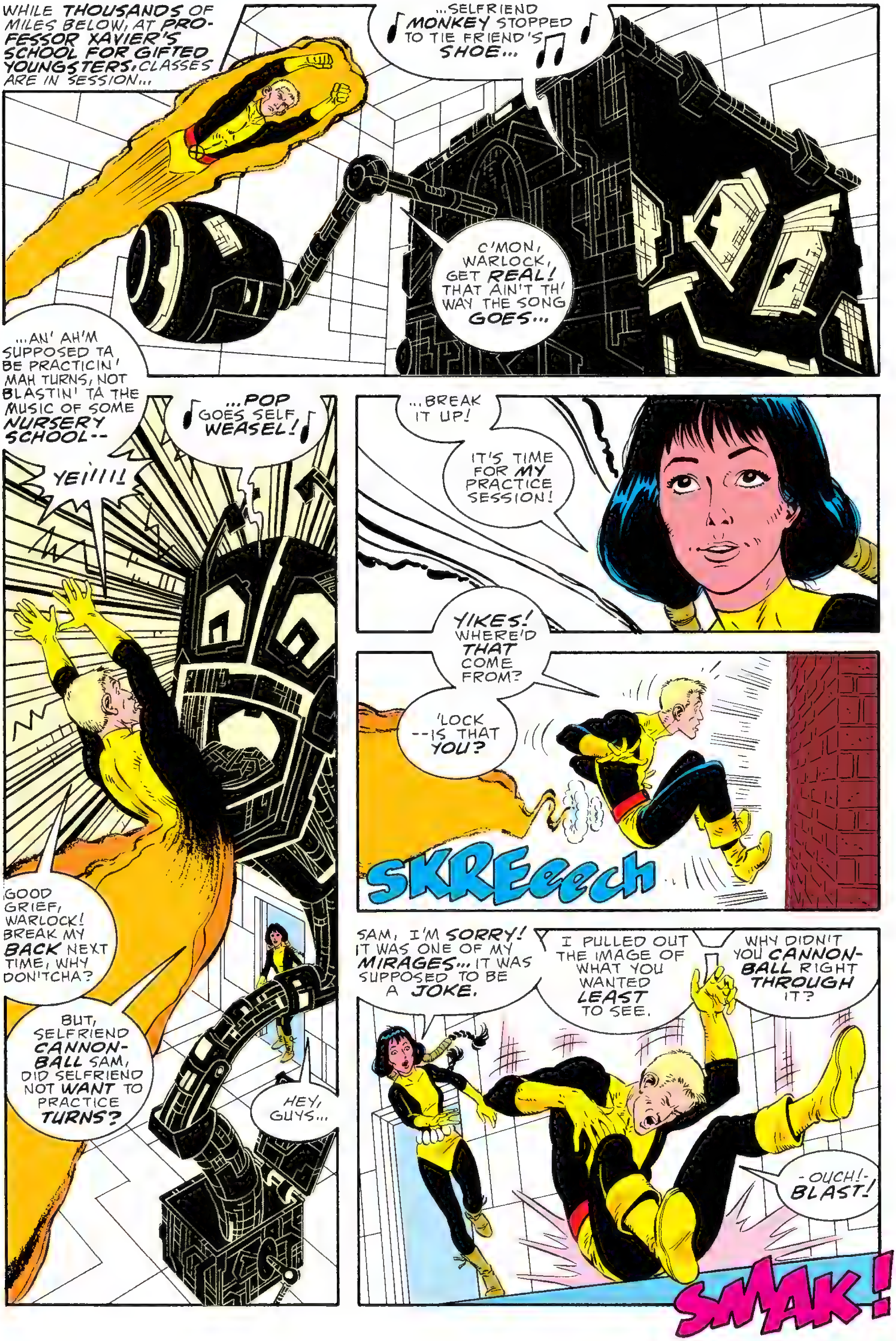
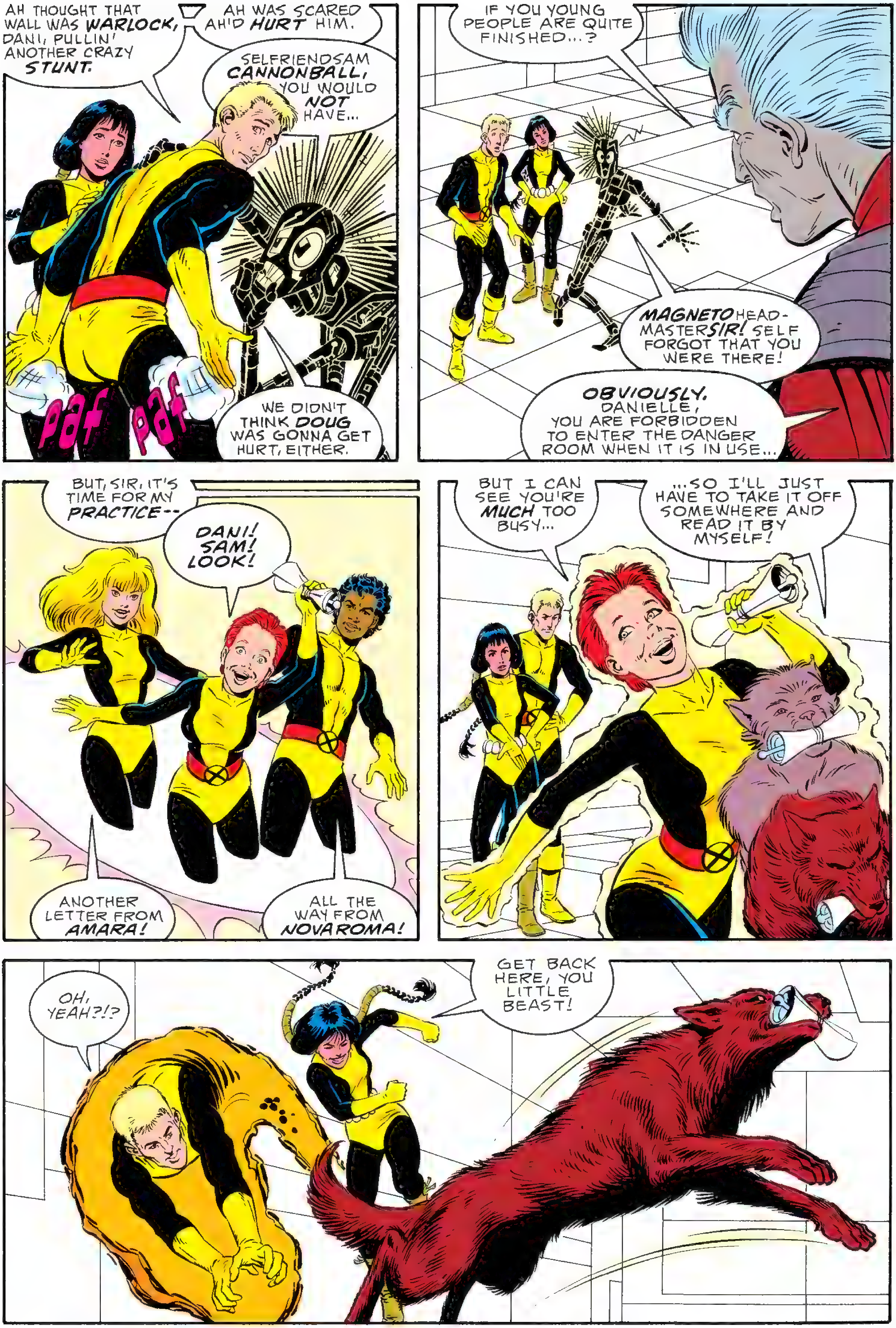
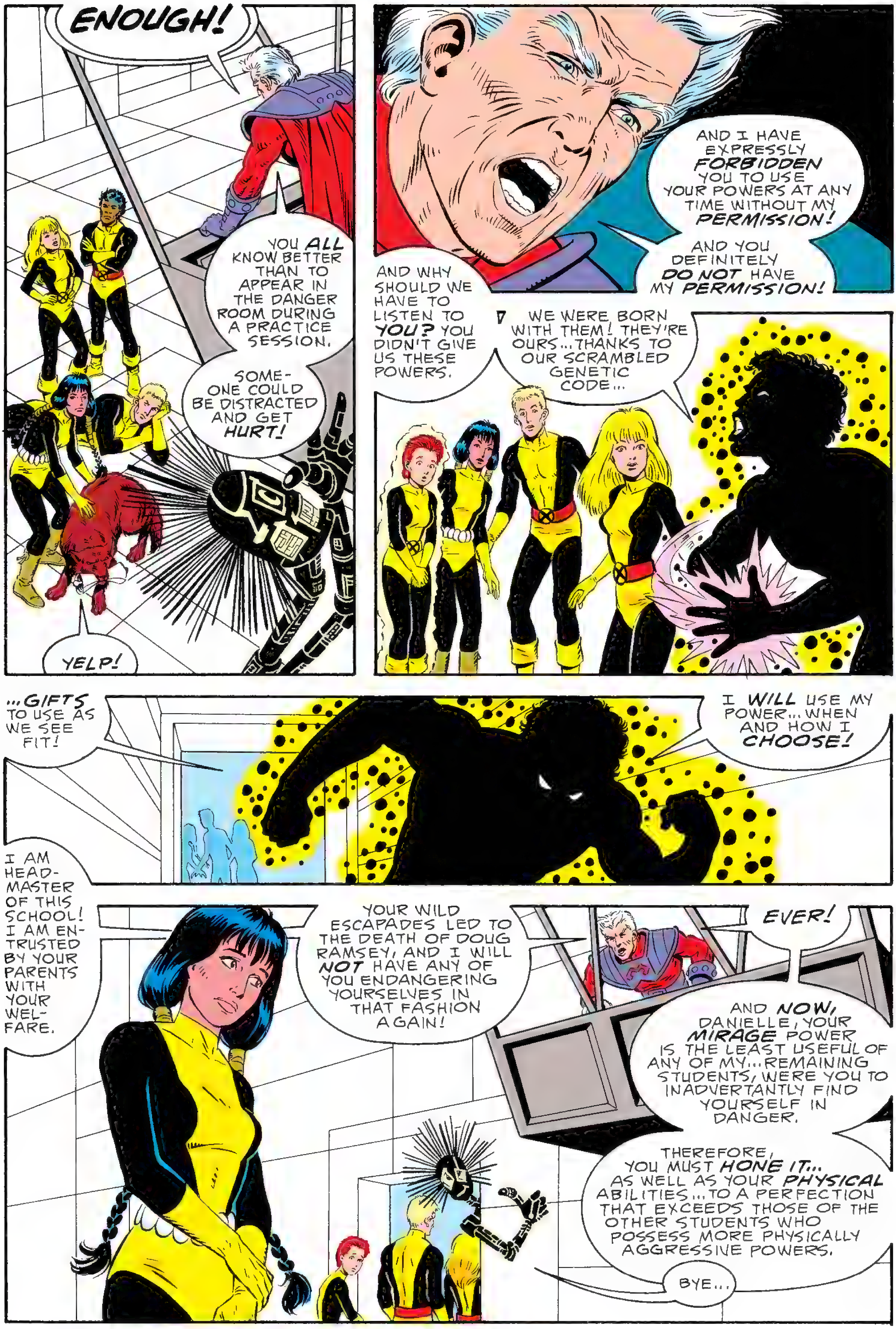

AN EXCELLENT PLAN, MY FRIEND! IF WE MUST DIE... LET US DIE STRIKING A BLOW FOR MUTANTS EVERYWHERE!
IN TRUTH, I AM MORE SICKENED BY THESE HUMANS' PERSECUTION THAN BY THE HAZARDOUS WASTE WHICH SURROUNDS OUR DOMICILE.
SKREEEOW!
THESE GUYS AIN'T ORDINARY HUMANS!-OUCH!- GET BEHIND ME, GLOW WORM. THOSE BLASTS STING EVEN ME SUMPTHIN' FIERCE!
INDEED, THE SOPHISTICATION OF THEIR TECHNOLOGY IS ASTOUNDING...
SKREE-SPAK!
SPAK!
...BUT GLO-BAL COCKTAILS SHOULD STILL CAUSE HAVOC IN THEIR RANKS!
SSSSSSSSSS
BOOM!
WE'VE GOT CASUALTIES DOWN HERE, STACK.
I WARNED YOU, PURGE, THAT THEIR CAPTURE WOULD BE DIFFICULT. WHIRL ABOUT THEM, FOOLS! DISTRACT THE BIG ONE TO REACH THE SMALL--
--AND PRAY THAT THE TECHNICIANS DESIGNED YOUR BATTLE ARMOR TO WITHSTAND THEIR RADIO-ACTIVITY.

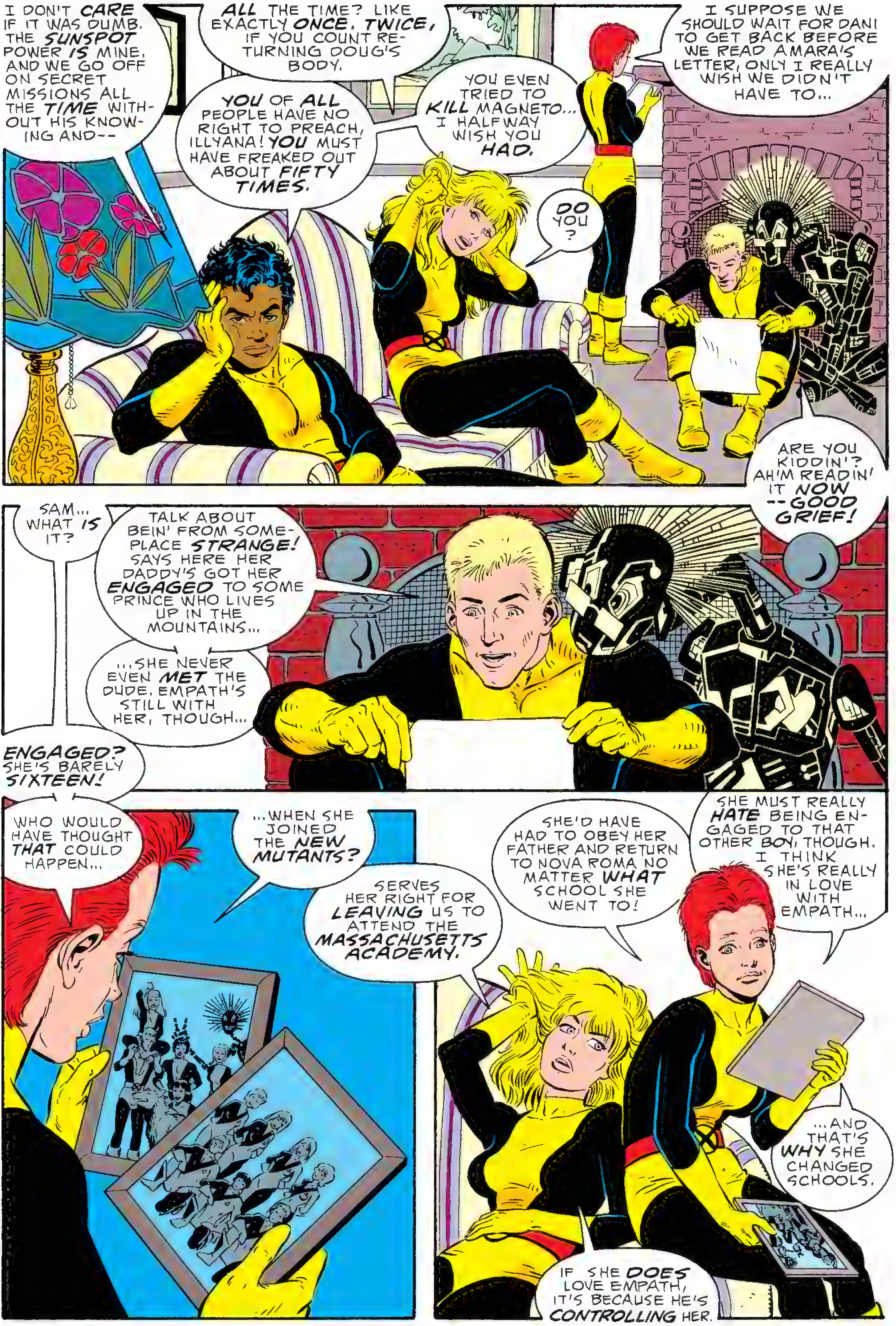

HERE THEY COME, GLOW WORM. I'LL GET 'EM. I'LL GRAB 'EM AN' RIP 'EM AN' SHRED 'EM AN...
GLOW WORM? GLOW WORM?!?
WHERE ARE YOU?
BULK ... I'M OVER--
SKREE
AKK!
SPAK!
GLOW WORM ...?
GET HIM!
NOW!
I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD THEY CLAIM OUR ARMOR IS...
... I'M KEEPING AS FAR FROM THOSE MONSTERS AS I CAN GET!
THE MUTANTS, GLOW WORM AND THE BULK, HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, SIRE, AS RECOMMENDED BY YOUR GATHERER, DR. STACK.

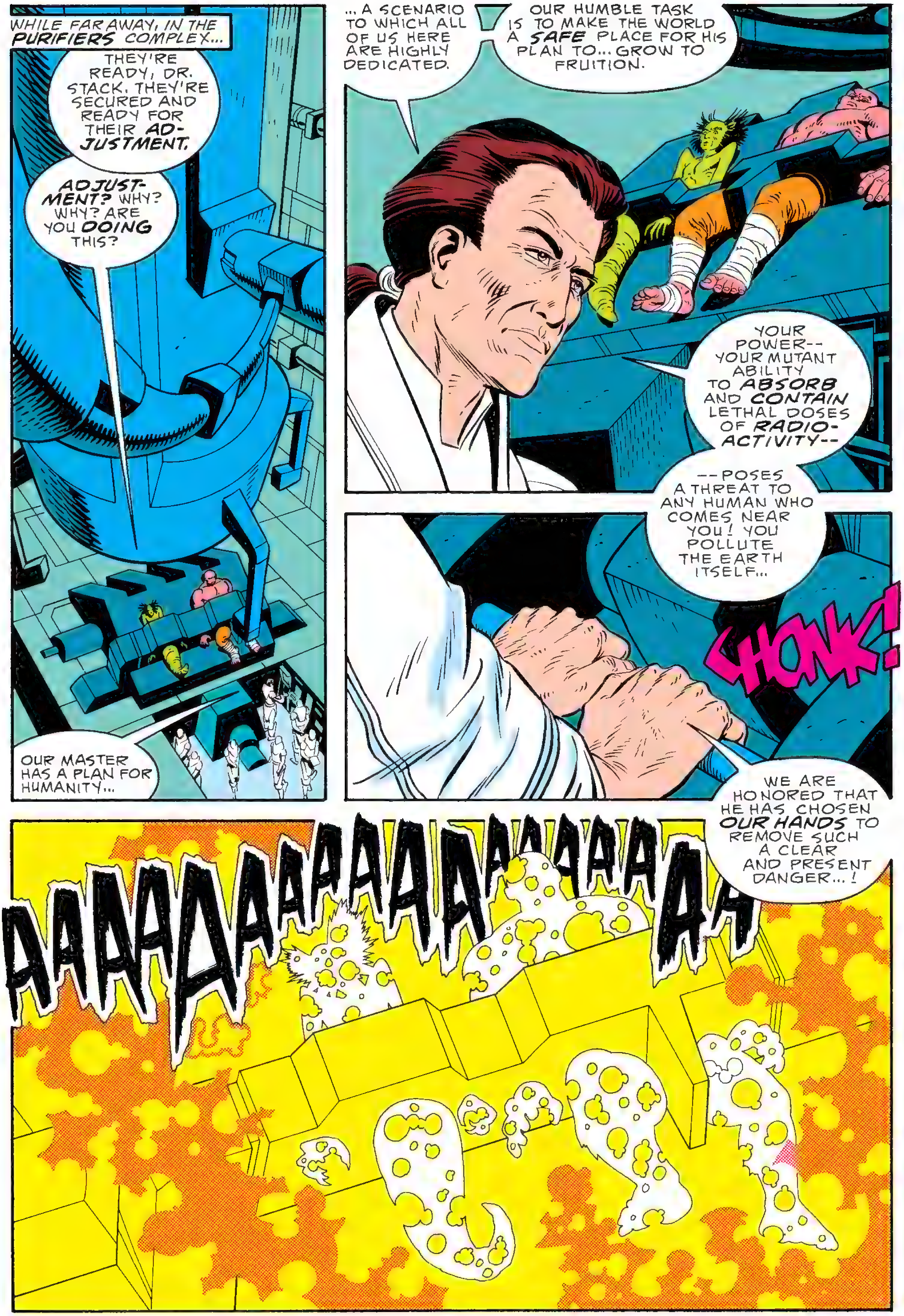

WITH THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S PERMISSION, MY PURIFIERS ARE READY TO BE TRANSPORTED TO OUR HEAD-QUARTERS...
...WHERE WE WILL BEGIN THE REMOVAL OF THEIR DANGEROUS MUTANT POWERS.
STACK RECOMMENDS THAT WE HURRY, SIRE. THEIR RADIATION LEVEL IS OFF THE CHARTS. THE DANGER TO US ALL...
TRUST IN ME, PURGE.
I WILL PROTECT YOU. BUT... VERY WELL, I WILL RETURN YOU TO YOUR HEAD-QUARTERS...
...TO COMPLETE THE TASK THAT I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU.
THOSE POWERS THAT WILL ENDANGER THE SURVIVAL OF THE HUMAN RACE MUST BE REMOVED...
...IF MY GREAT PLAN FOR HUMANITY'S ADVANCEMENT IS TO SUCCEED.
I ONLY HOPE THAT REMOVAL OF THEIR POWERS WILL NOT END THOSE WRETCHED CREATURES' LIVES.

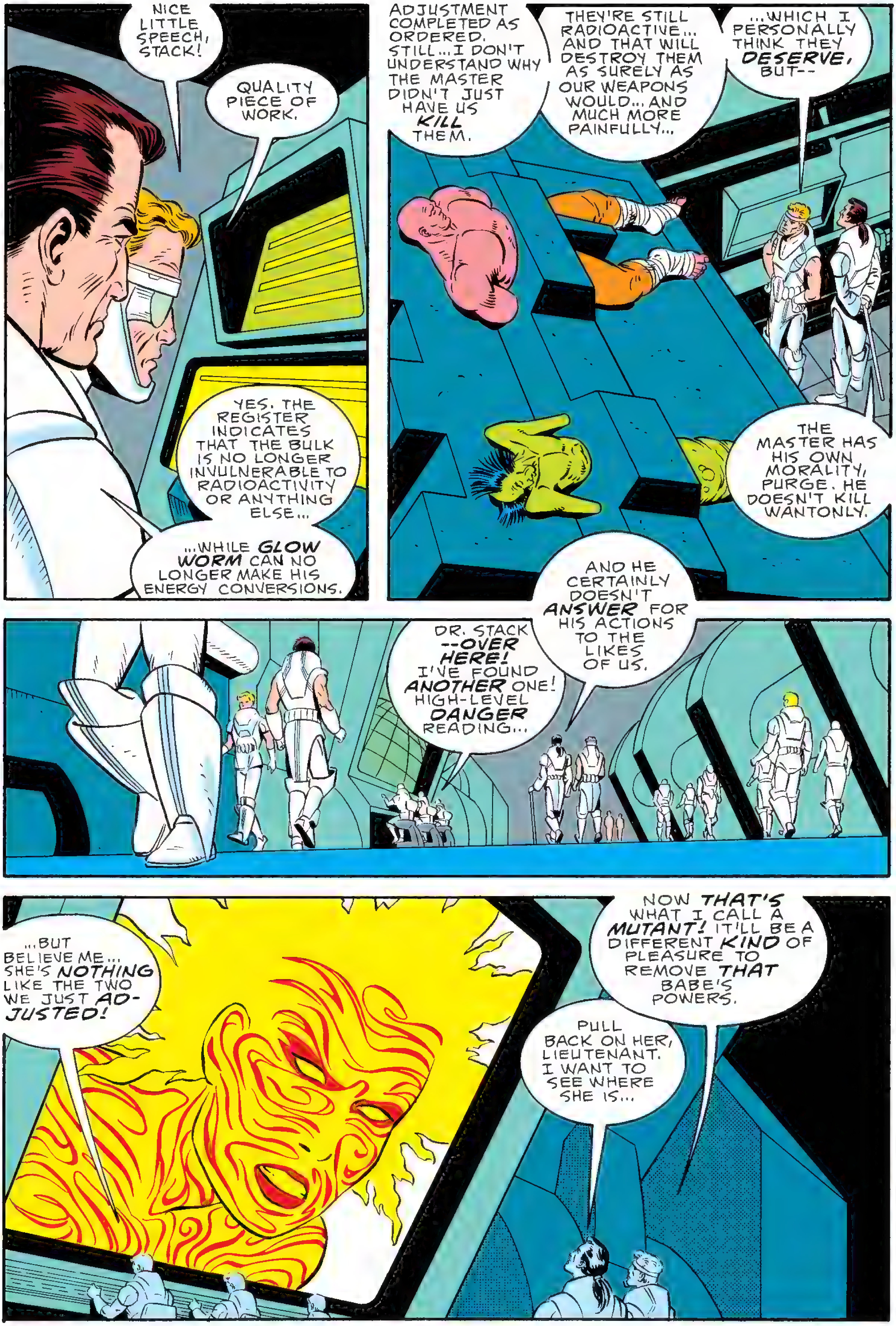

WHILE THOUSANDS OF MILES BELOW, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, CLASSES ARE IN SESSION...
...SELFRIEND MONKEY STOPPED TO TIE FRIEND'S SHOE...
C'MON, WARLOCK, GET REAL! THAT AIN'T TH' WAY THE SONG GOES...
...AN' AH'M SUPPOSED TA BE PRACTICIN' MAH TURNS, NOT BLASTIN' TA THE MUSIC OF SOME NURSERY SCHOOL--
...POP GOES SELF WEASEL!
YEI!!!!
GOOD GRIEF, WARLOCK! BREAK MY BACK NEXT TIME, WHY DON'TCHA?
BUT, SELFRIEND CANNONBALL SAM, DID SELFRIEND NOT WANT TO PRACTICE TURNS?
HEY, GUYS...
...BREAK IT UP!
IT'S TIME FOR MY PRACTICE SESSION!
YIKES! WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
'LOCK --IS THAT YOU?
SKREeech
SAM, I'M SORRY! IT WAS ONE OF MY MIRAGES... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE.
I PULLED OUT THE IMAGE OF WHAT YOU WANTED LEAST TO SEE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU CANNONBALL RIGHT THROUGH IT?
-OUCH!- BLAST!
SMAK!

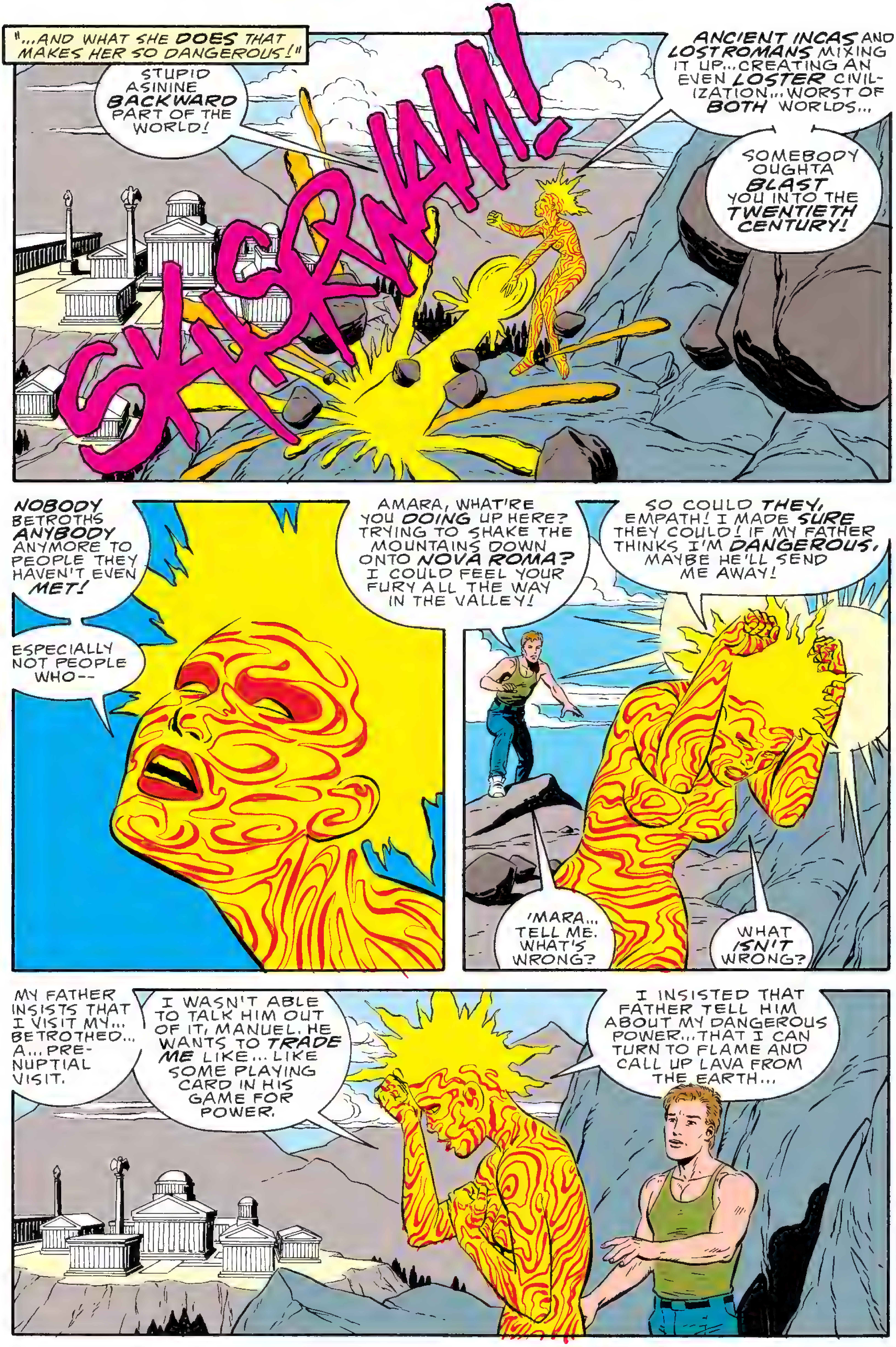

AH THOUGHT THAT WALL WAS **WARLOCK**, DANI, PULLIN' ANOTHER CRAZY **STUNT**.
AH WAS SCARED AH'D **HURT** HIM.
SELFRIENDSAM **CANNONBALL**, YOU WOULD **NOT** HAVE...
paf paf
WE DIDN'T THINK **DOUG** WAS GONNA GET HURT, EITHER.
IF YOU YOUNG PEOPLE ARE QUITE FINISHED...?
MAGNETO HEADMASTER**SIR!** SELF FORGOT THAT YOU WERE THERE!
OBVIOUSLY, DANIELLE, YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE DANGER ROOM WHEN IT IS IN USE...
BUT, SIR, IT'S TIME FOR MY **PRACTICE**--
DANI! SAM! LOOK!
ANOTHER LETTER FROM AMARA!
ALL THE WAY FROM **NOVA ROMA!**
BUT I CAN SEE YOU'RE **MUCH** TOO BUSY...
...SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT OFF SOMEWHERE AND READ IT BY MYSELF!
OH, YEAH?!?
GET BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE BEAST!

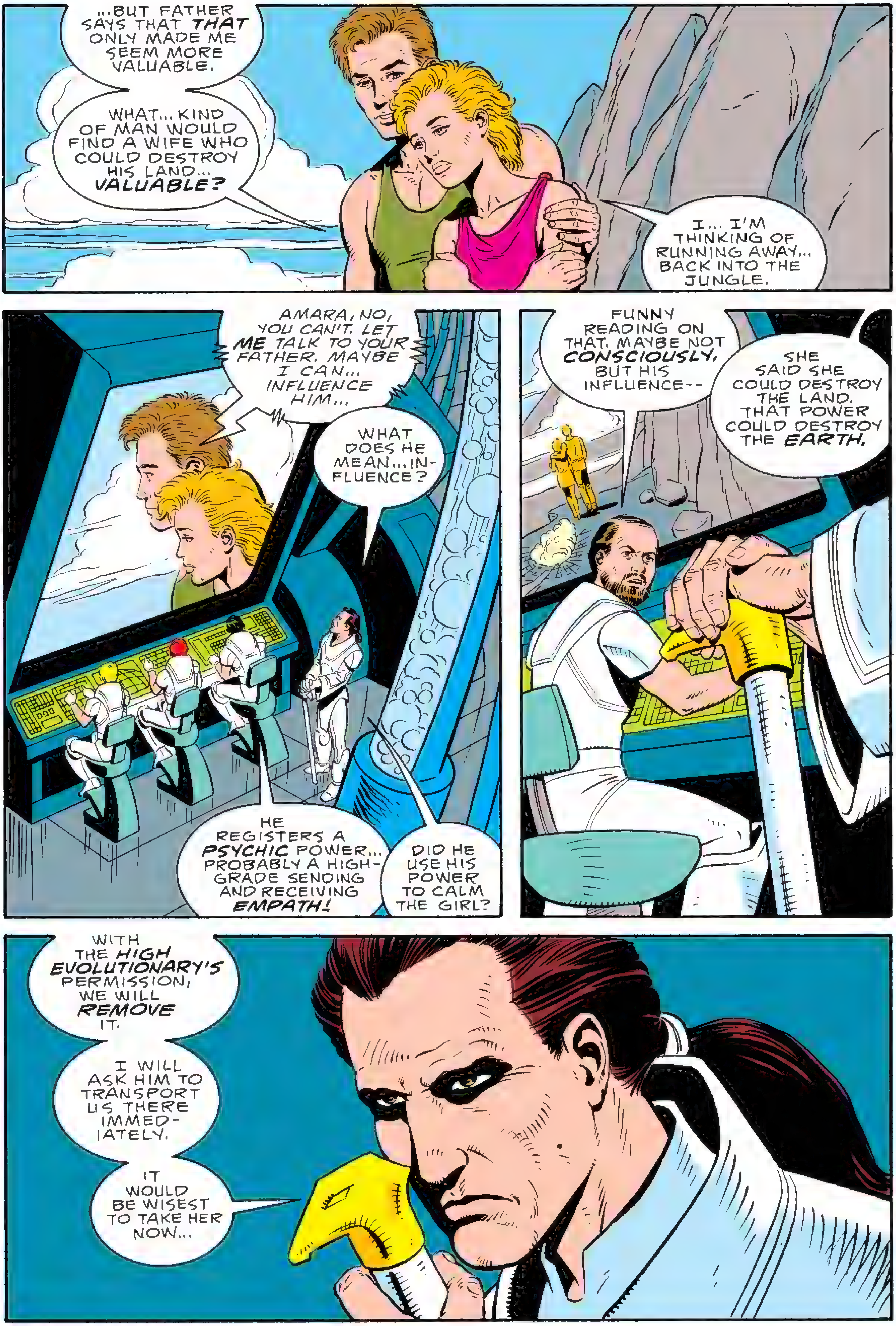

ENOUGH!
YOU ALL KNOW BETTER THAN TO APPEAR IN THE DANGER ROOM DURING A PRACTICE SESSION.
SOMEONE COULD BE DISTRACTED AND GET HURT!
YELP!
AND I HAVE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
AND YOU DEFINITELY DO NOT HAVE MY PERMISSION!
AND WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU? YOU DIDN'T GIVE US THESE POWERS.
WE WERE BORN WITH THEM! THEY'RE OURS... THANKS TO OUR SCRAMBLED GENETIC CODE...
...GIFTS TO USE AS WE SEE FIT!
I WILL USE MY POWER... WHEN AND HOW I CHOOSE!
I AM HEADMASTER OF THIS SCHOOL! I AM ENTRUSTED BY YOUR PARENTS WITH YOUR WELFARE.
YOUR WILD ESCAPADES LED TO THE DEATH OF DOUG RAMSEY, AND I WILL NOT HAVE ANY OF YOU ENDANGERING YOURSELVES IN THAT FASHION AGAIN!
EVER!
AND NOW, DANIELLE, YOUR MIRAGE POWER IS THE LEAST USEFUL OF ANY OF MY... REMAINING STUDENTS, WERE YOU TO INADVERTANTLY FIND YOURSELF IN DANGER.
THEREFORE, YOU MUST HONE IT... AS WELL AS YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES... TO A PERFECTION THAT EXCEEDS THOSE OF THE OTHER STUDENTS WHO POSSESS MORE PHYSICALLY AGGRESSIVE POWERS.
BYE...

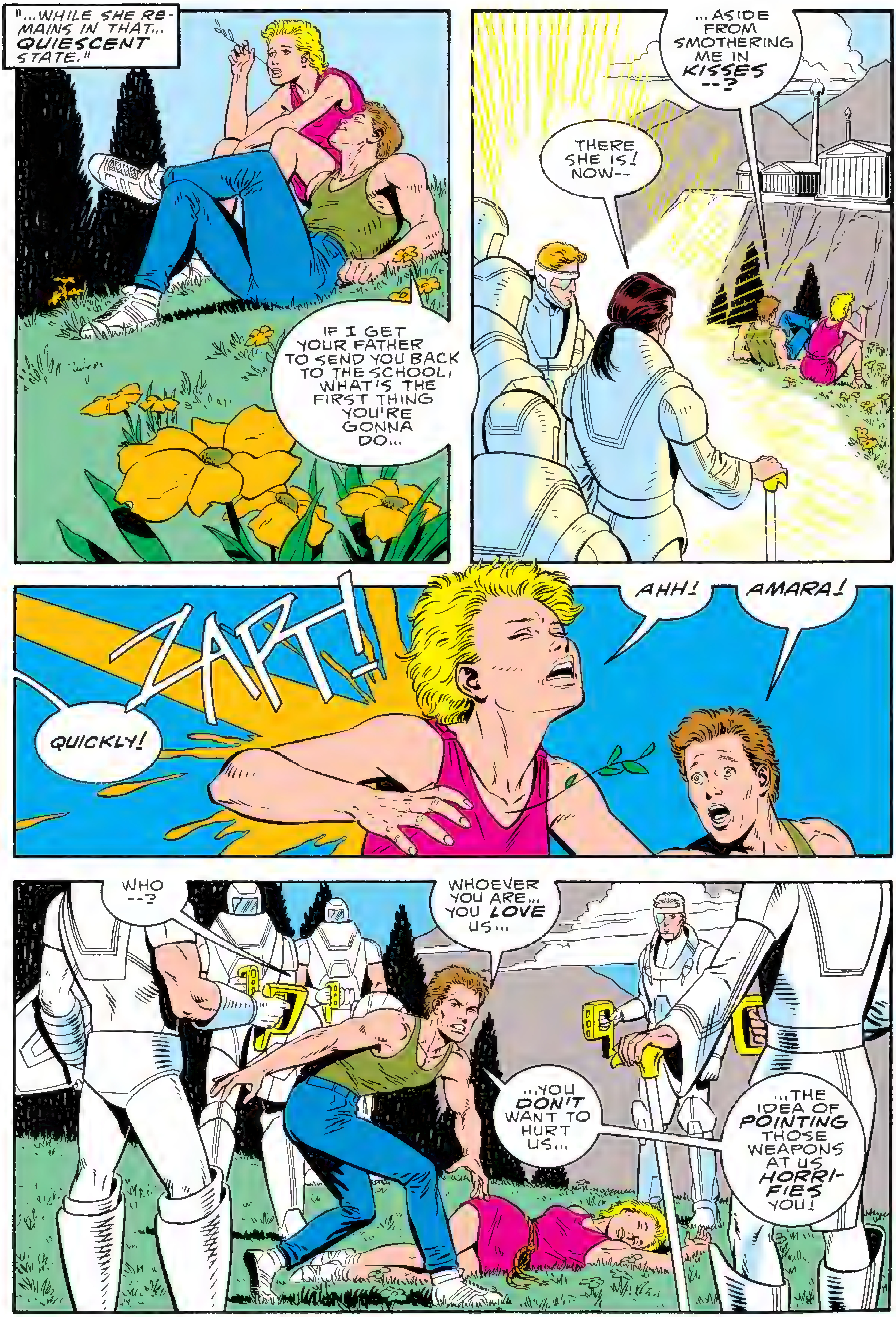

I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS DUMB. THE SUNSPOT POWER IS MINE, AND WE GO OFF ON SECRET MISSIONS ALL THE TIME WITHOUT HIS KNOWING AND--
ALL THE TIME? LIKE EXACTLY ONCE. TWICE, IF YOU COUNT RETURNING DOUG'S BODY.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO PREACH, ILLYANA! YOU MUST HAVE FREAKED OUT ABOUT FIFTY TIMES.
YOU EVEN TRIED TO KILL MAGNETO... I HALFWAY WISH YOU HAD.
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD WAIT FOR DANI TO GET BACK BEFORE WE READ AMARA'S LETTER, ONLY I REALLY WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO...
DO YOU?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? AH'M READIN' IT NOW --GOOD GRIEF!
SAM... WHAT IS IT?
TALK ABOUT BEIN' FROM SOMEPLACE STRANGE! SAYS HERE HER DADDY'S GOT HER ENGAGED TO SOME PRINCE WHO LIVES UP IN THE MOUNTAINS...
...SHE NEVER EVEN MET THE DUDE. EMPATH'S STILL WITH HER, THOUGH...
ENGAGED? SHE'S BARELY SIXTEEN!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT COULD HAPPEN...
...WHEN SHE JOINED THE NEW MUTANTS?
SERVES HER RIGHT FOR LEAVING US TO ATTEND THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY.
SHE'D HAVE HAD TO OBEY HER FATHER AND RETURN TO NOVA ROMA NO MATTER WHAT SCHOOL SHE WENT TO!
SHE MUST REALLY HATE BEING ENGAGED TO THAT OTHER BOY, THOUGH. I THINK SHE'S REALLY IN LOVE WITH EMPATH...
...AND THAT'S WHY SHE CHANGED SCHOOLS.
IF SHE DOES LOVE EMPATH, IT'S BECAUSE HE'S CONTROLLING HER.

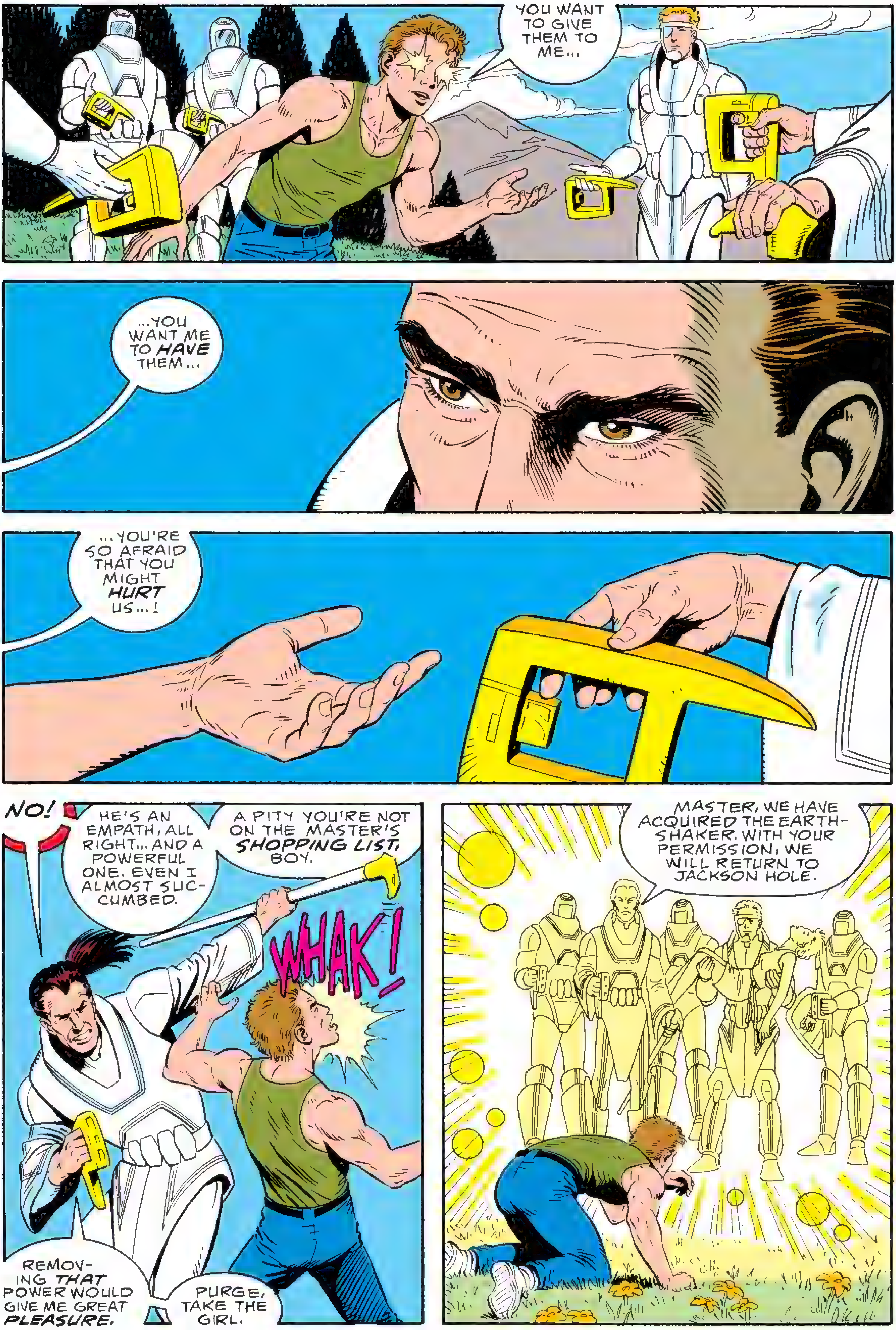

WHILE FAR AWAY, IN THE *PURIFIERS* COMPLEX...
THEY'RE READY, DR. STACK. THEY'RE SECURED AND READY FOR THEIR **ADJUSTMENT.**
ADJUSTMENT? WHY? WHY? ARE YOU **DOING** THIS?
OUR MASTER HAS A PLAN FOR HUMANITY...
...A SCENARIO TO WHICH ALL OF US HERE ARE HIGHLY DEDICATED.
OUR HUMBLE TASK IS TO MAKE THE WORLD A **SAFE** PLACE FOR HIS PLAN TO... GROW TO FRUITION.
YOUR POWER-- YOUR MUTANT ABILITY TO **ABSORB** AND **CONTAIN** LETHAL DOSES OF **RADIO-ACTIVITY**--
--POSES A THREAT TO ANY HUMAN WHO COMES NEAR YOU! YOU POLLUTE THE EARTH ITSELF...
CHONK!
WE ARE HONORED THAT HE HAS CHOSEN **OUR HANDS** TO REMOVE SUCH A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER...!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

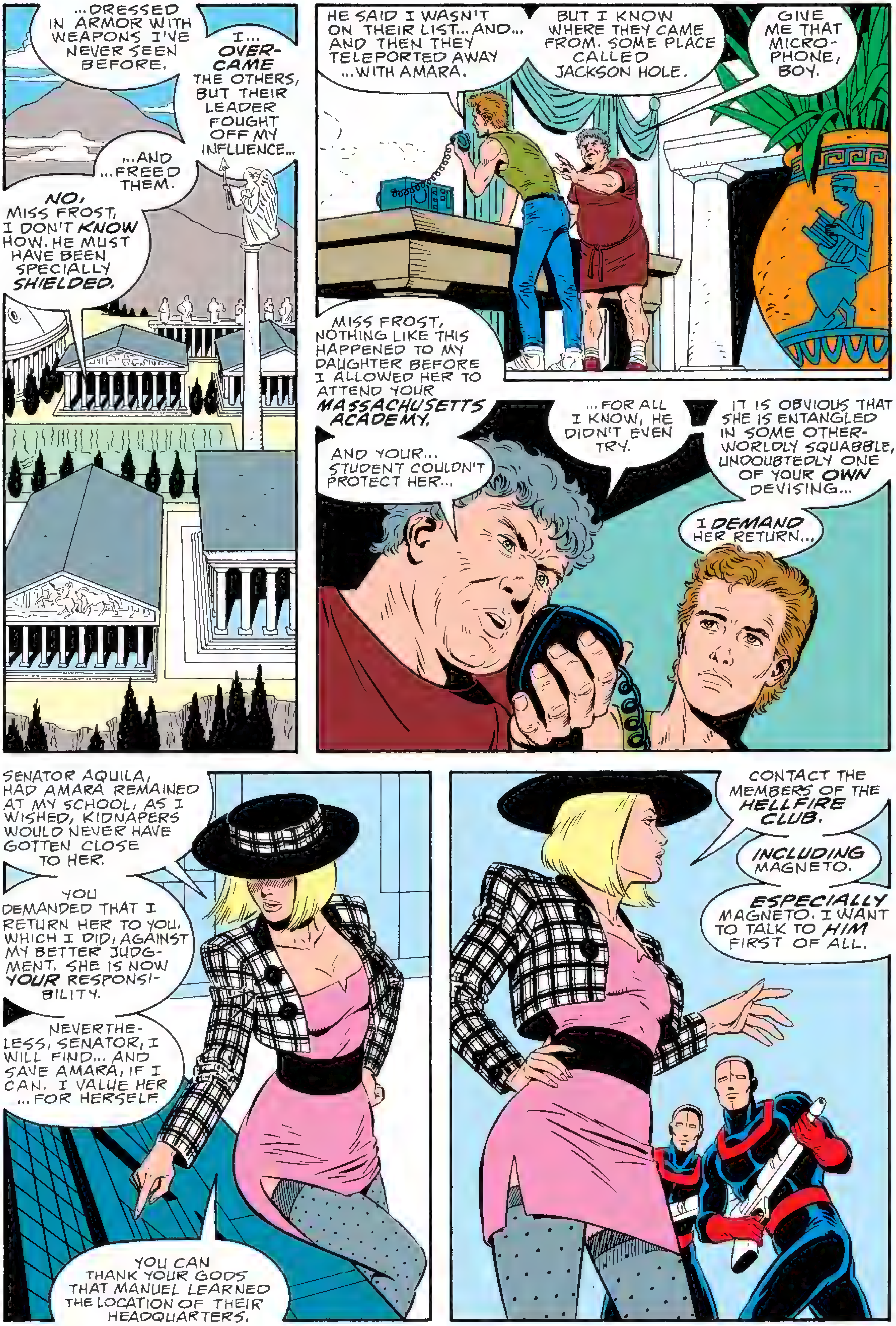

NICE LITTLE SPEECH, STACK!
QUALITY PIECE OF WORK.
YES. THE REGISTER INDICATES THAT THE BULK IS NO LONGER INVULNERABLE TO RADIOACTIVITY OR ANYTHING ELSE...
...WHILE **GLOW WORM** CAN NO LONGER MAKE HIS ENERGY CONVERSIONS.
ADJUSTMENT COMPLETED AS ORDERED. STILL...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE MASTER DIDN'T JUST HAVE US **KILL** THEM.
THEY'RE STILL RADIOACTIVE... AND THAT WILL DESTROY THEM AS SURELY AS OUR WEAPONS WOULD... AND MUCH MORE PAINFULLY...
...WHICH I PERSONALLY THINK THEY **DESERVE,** BUT--
THE MASTER HAS HIS OWN MORALITY, PURGE. HE DOESN'T KILL WANTONLY.
AND HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T **ANSWER** FOR HIS ACTIONS TO THE LIKES OF US.
DR. STACK **--OVER HERE!** I'VE FOUND **ANOTHER** ONE! HIGH-LEVEL **DANGER** READING...
...BUT BELIEVE ME... SHE'S **NOTHING** LIKE THE TWO WE JUST **ADJUSTED!**
NOW **THAT'S** WHAT I CALL A **MUTANT!** IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT **KIND** OF PLEASURE TO REMOVE **THAT** BABE'S POWERS.
PULL BACK ON HER, LIEUTENANT. I WANT TO SEE WHERE SHE IS...

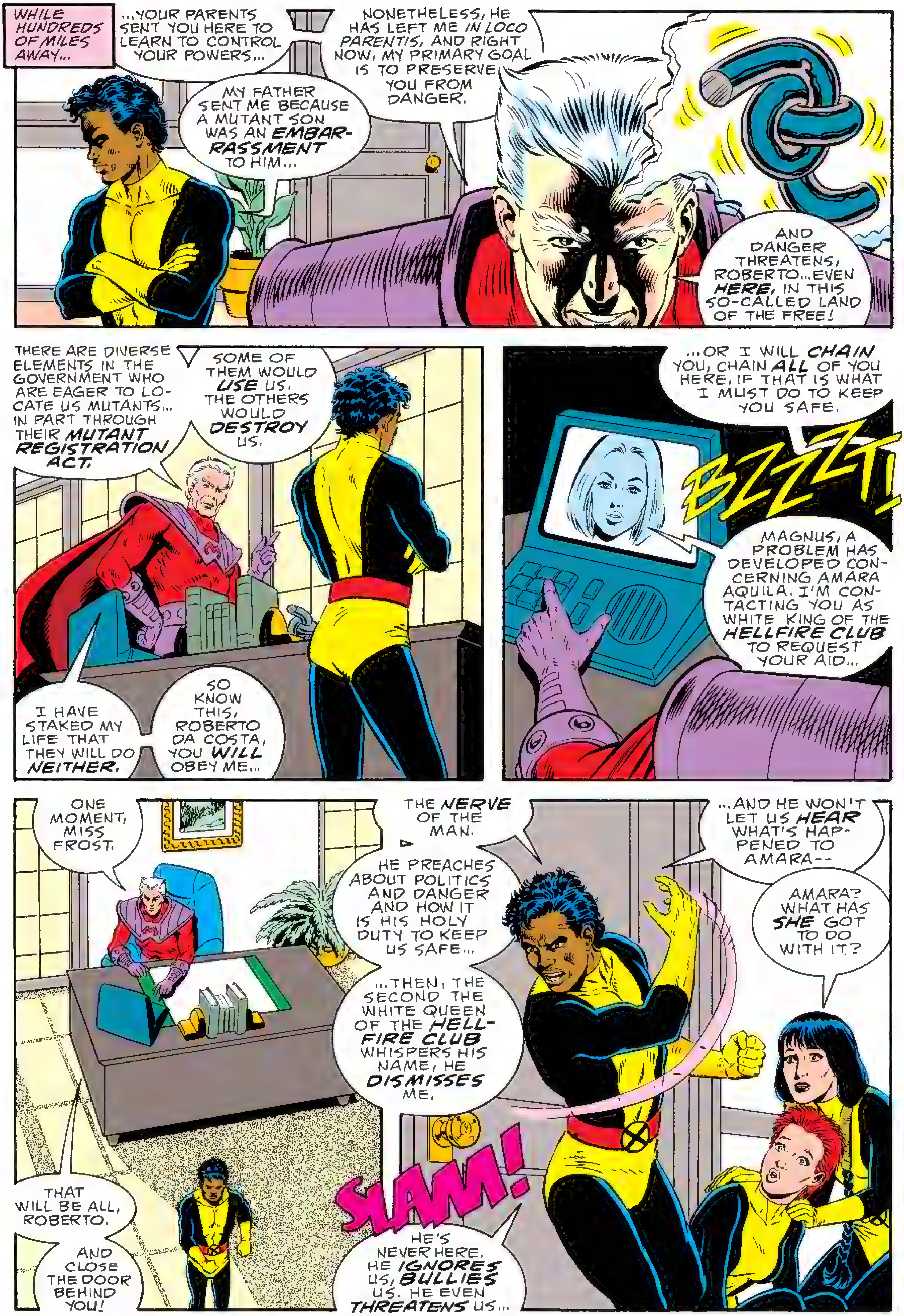

"...AND WHAT SHE DOES THAT MAKES HER SO DANGEROUS!"
STUPID ASININE BACKWARD PART OF THE WORLD!
SHSRAM!
ANCIENT INCAS AND LOST ROMANS MIXING IT UP...CREATING AN EVEN LOSTER CIVILIZATION...WORST OF BOTH WORLDS...
SOMEBODY OUGHTA BLAST YOU INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!
NOBODY BETROTHS ANYBODY ANYMORE TO PEOPLE THEY HAVEN'T EVEN MET!
ESPECIALLY NOT PEOPLE WHO--
AMARA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING UP HERE? TRYING TO SHAKE THE MOUNTAINS DOWN ONTO NOVA ROMA? I COULD FEEL YOUR FURY ALL THE WAY IN THE VALLEY!
SO COULD THEY, EMPATH! I MADE SURE THEY COULD! IF MY FATHER THINKS I'M DANGEROUS, MAYBE HE'LL SEND ME AWAY!
'MARA... TELL ME. WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT ISN'T WRONG?
MY FATHER INSISTS THAT I VISIT MY... BETROTHED... A...PRE-NUPTIAL VISIT.
I WASN'T ABLE TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT, MANUEL. HE WANTS TO TRADE ME LIKE...LIKE SOME PLAYING CARD IN HIS GAME FOR POWER.
I INSISTED THAT FATHER TELL HIM ABOUT MY DANGEROUS POWER...THAT I CAN TURN TO FLAME AND CALL UP LAVA FROM THE EARTH...

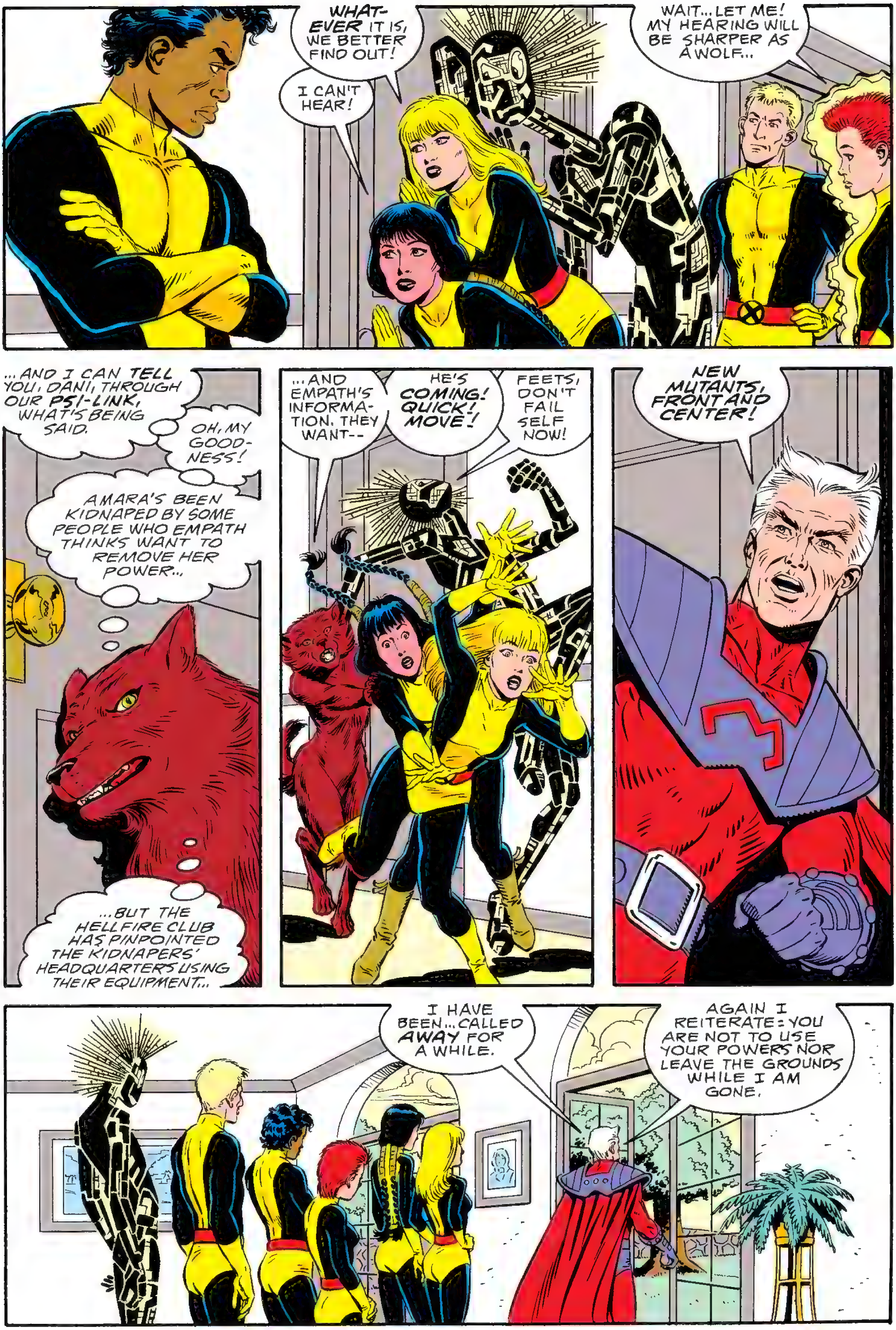

...BUT FATHER SAYS THAT *THAT* ONLY MADE ME SEEM MORE VALUABLE.
WHAT... KIND OF MAN WOULD FIND A WIFE WHO COULD DESTROY HIS LAND... *VALUABLE?*
I... I'M THINKING OF RUNNING AWAY... BACK INTO THE JUNGLE.
AMARA, NO, YOU CAN'T. LET *ME* TALK TO YOUR FATHER. MAYBE I CAN... INFLUENCE HIM...
WHAT DOES HE MEAN... INFLUENCE?
HE REGISTERS A *PSYCHIC* POWER... PROBABLY A HIGH-GRADE SENDING AND RECEIVING *EMPATH!*
DID HE USE HIS POWER TO CALM THE GIRL?
FUNNY READING ON THAT. MAYBE NOT *CONSCIOUSLY*, BUT HIS INFLUENCE--
SHE SAID SHE COULD DESTROY THE LAND. THAT POWER COULD DESTROY THE *EARTH*.
WITH THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S* PERMISSION, WE WILL *REMOVE* IT.
I WILL ASK HIM TO TRANSPORT US THERE IMMEDIATELY.
IT WOULD BE WISEST TO TAKE HER NOW...

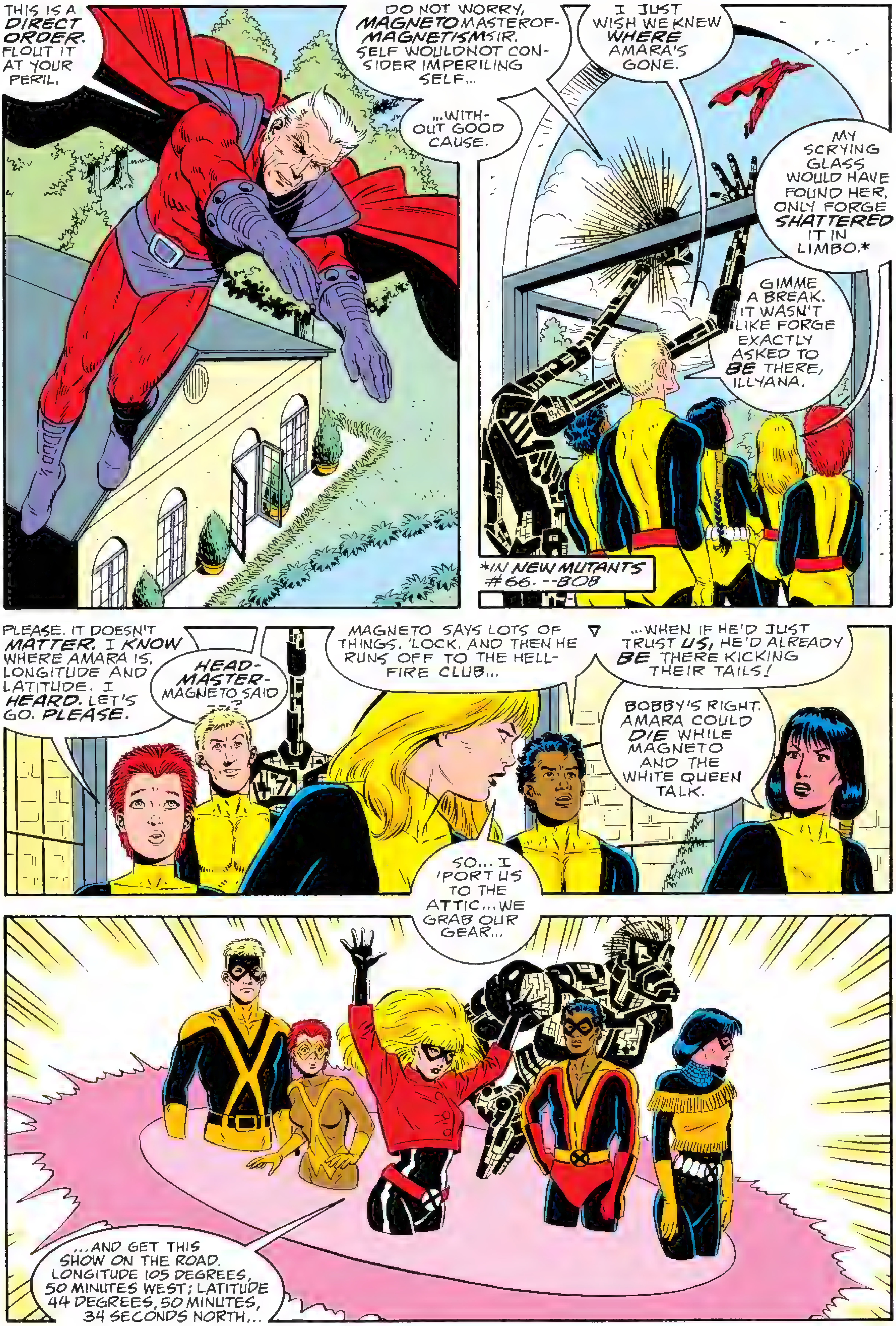

"...WHILE SHE REMAINS IN THAT... **QUIESCENT** STATE."
IF I GET YOUR FATHER TO SEND YOU BACK TO THE SCHOOL, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'RE GONNA DO...
...ASIDE FROM SMOTHERING ME IN **KISSES**--?
THERE SHE IS! NOW--
QUICKLY!
ZAPT!
AHH!
AMARA!
WHO--?
WHOEVER YOU ARE... YOU **LOVE** US...
...YOU **DON'T** WANT TO HURT US...
...THE IDEA OF **POINTING** THOSE WEAPONS AT US **HORRIFIES** YOU!

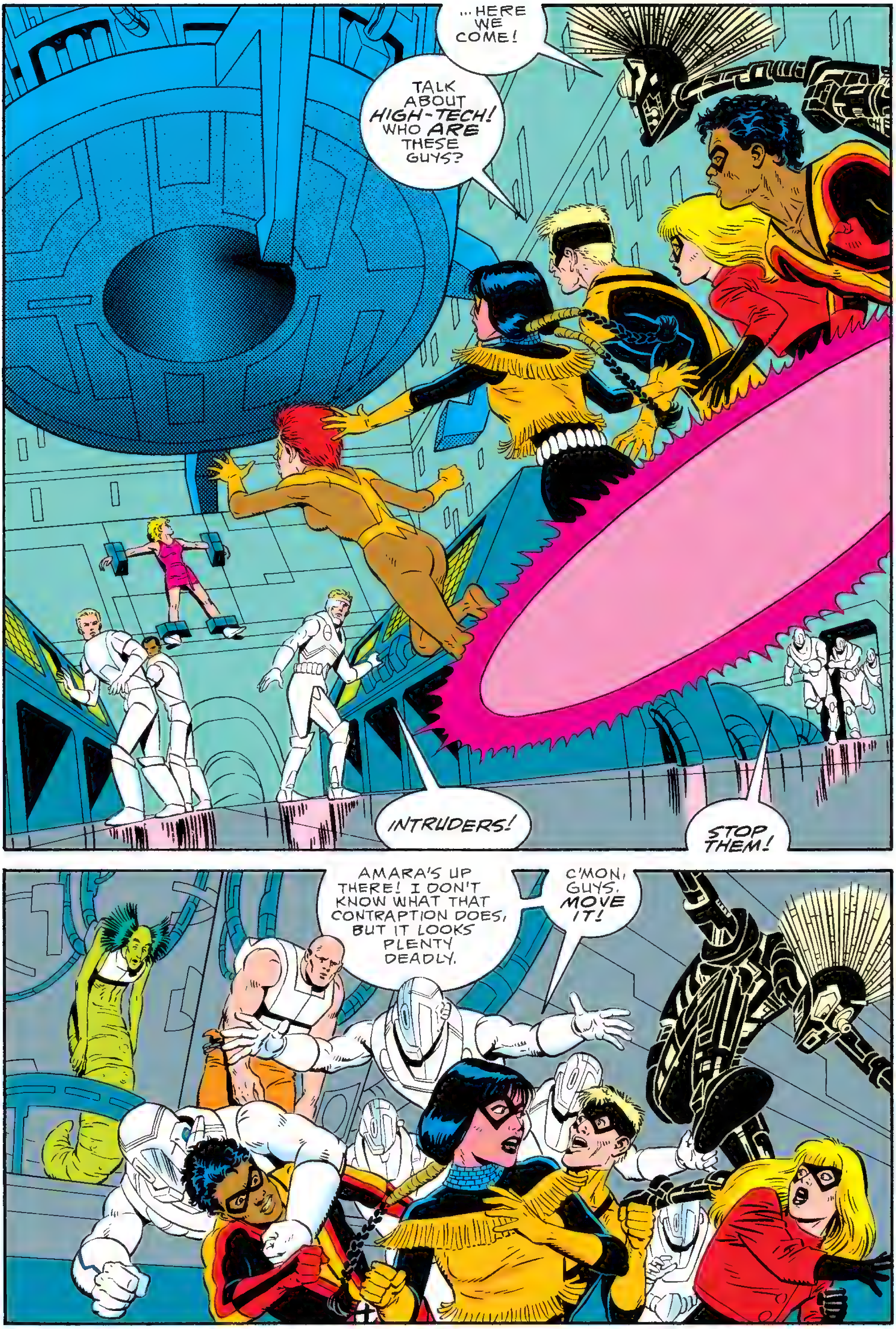

YOU WANT TO GIVE THEM TO ME...
...YOU WANT ME TO *HAVE* THEM...
...YOU'RE SO AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT *HURT* US...!
NO!
HE'S AN EMPATH, ALL RIGHT... AND A POWERFUL ONE. EVEN I ALMOST SUCCUMBED.
A PITY YOU'RE NOT ON THE MASTER'S *SHOPPING LIST,* BOY.
WHAK!
REMOVING *THAT* POWER WOULD GIVE ME GREAT *PLEASURE.*
PURGE, TAKE THE GIRL.
MASTER, WE HAVE ACQUIRED THE EARTH-SHAKER. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, WE WILL RETURN TO JACKSON HOLE.

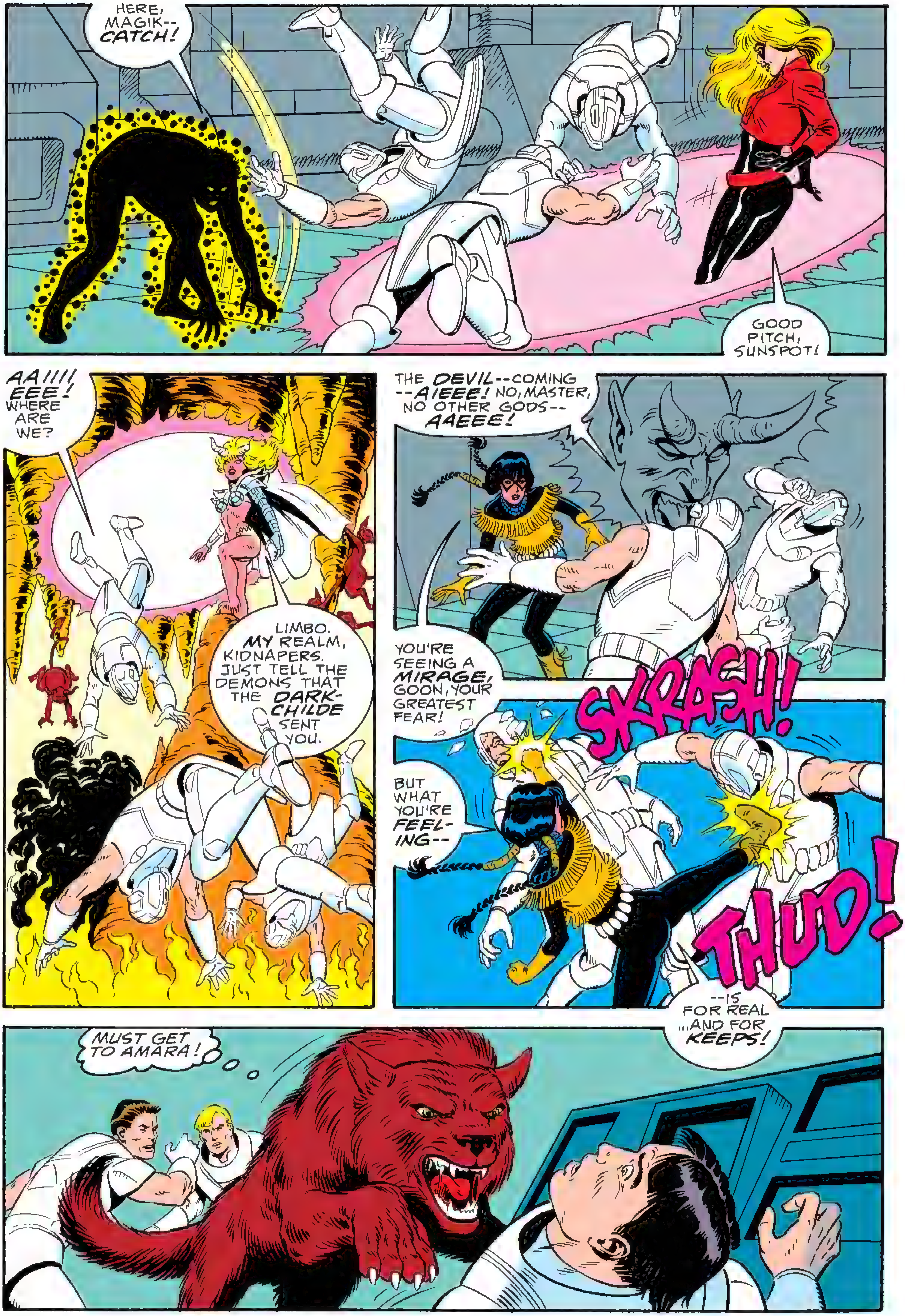

...DRESSED IN ARMOR WITH WEAPONS I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
I... **OVERCAME** THE OTHERS, BUT THEIR LEADER FOUGHT OFF MY INFLUENCE...
...AND ...FREED THEM.
NO, MISS FROST, I DON'T **KNOW** HOW. HE MUST HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY **SHIELDED.**
HE SAID I WASN'T ON THEIR LIST... AND... AND THEN THEY TELEPORTED AWAY ...WITH AMARA.
BUT I KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM. SOME PLACE CALLED JACKSON HOLE.
GIVE ME THAT MICROPHONE, BOY.
MISS FROST, NOTHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED TO MY DAUGHTER BEFORE I ALLOWED HER TO ATTEND YOUR **MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY.**
AND YOUR... STUDENT COULDN'T PROTECT HER...
...FOR ALL I KNOW, HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY.
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SHE IS ENTANGLED IN SOME OTHER-WORLDLY SQUABBLE, UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF YOUR **OWN** DEVISING...
I **DEMAND** HER RETURN...
SENATOR AQUILA, HAD AMARA REMAINED AT MY SCHOOL, AS I WISHED, KIDNAPERS WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN CLOSE TO HER.
YOU DEMANDED THAT I RETURN HER TO YOU, WHICH I DID, AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT. SHE IS NOW **YOUR** RESPONSIBILITY.
NEVERTHELESS, SENATOR, I WILL FIND... AND SAVE AMARA, IF I CAN. I VALUE HER ...FOR HERSELF.
YOU CAN THANK YOUR GODS THAT MANUEL LEARNED THE LOCATION OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
CONTACT THE MEMBERS OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB.**
INCLUDING MAGNETO.
ESPECIALLY MAGNETO. I WANT TO TALK TO **HIM** FIRST OF ALL.

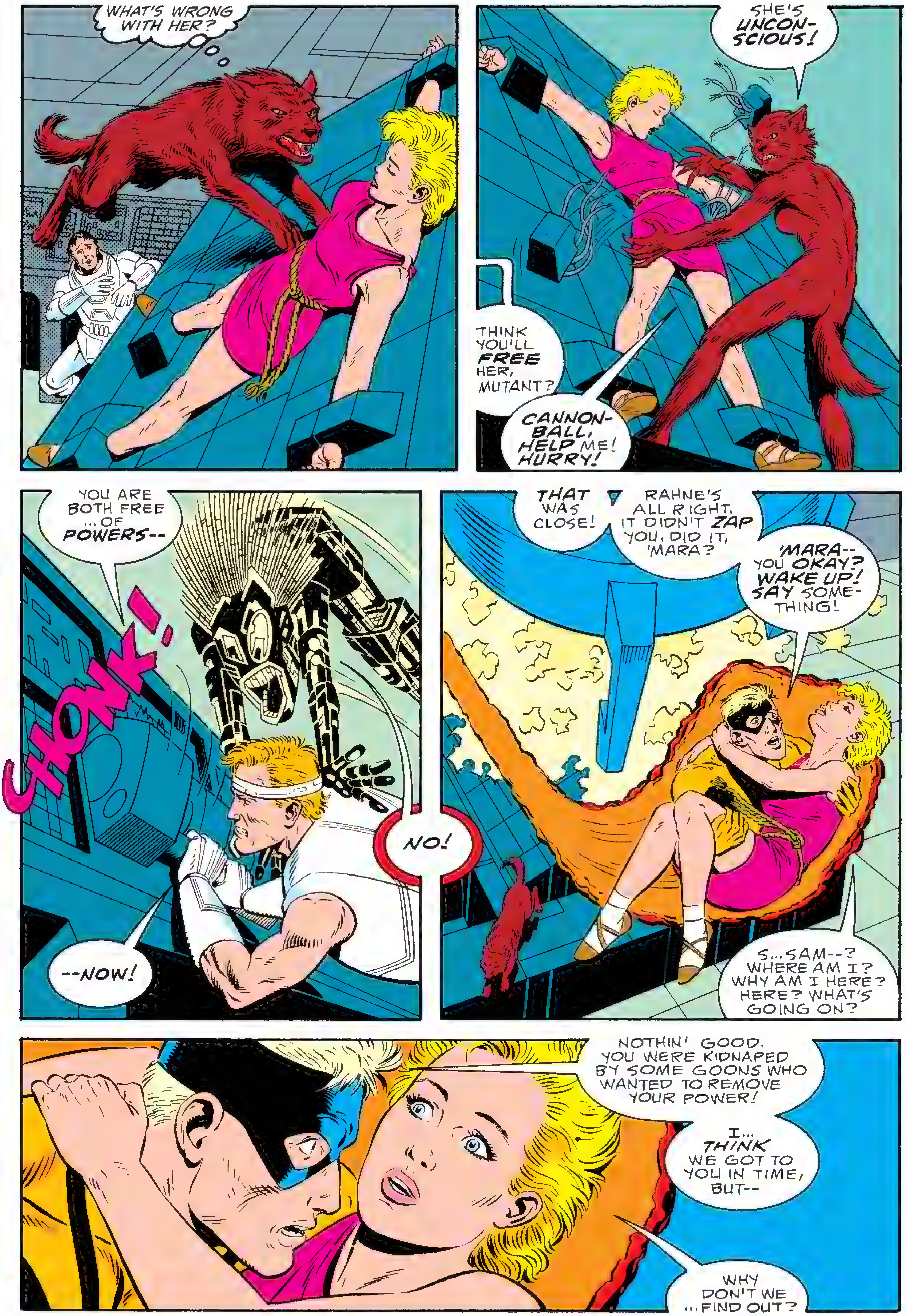

WHILE HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY...
...YOUR PARENTS SENT YOU HERE TO LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR POWERS...
MY FATHER SENT ME BECAUSE A MUTANT SON WAS AN **EMBARRASSMENT** TO HIM...
NONETHELESS, HE HAS LEFT ME *IN LOCO PARENTIS*, AND RIGHT NOW, MY PRIMARY GOAL IS TO PRESERVE YOU FROM DANGER.
AND DANGER THREATENS, ROBERTO...EVEN **HERE**, IN THIS SO-CALLED LAND OF THE FREE!
THERE ARE DIVERSE ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO ARE EAGER TO LOCATE US MUTANTS... IN PART THROUGH THEIR **MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT.**
SOME OF THEM WOULD **USE** US. THE OTHERS WOULD **DESTROY** US.
I HAVE STAKED MY LIFE THAT THEY WILL DO **NEITHER.**
SO KNOW THIS, ROBERTO DA COSTA, YOU **WILL** OBEY ME...
...OR I WILL **CHAIN** YOU, CHAIN **ALL** OF YOU HERE, IF THAT IS WHAT I MUST DO TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
BZZZT!
MAGNUS, A PROBLEM HAS DEVELOPED CONCERNING AMARA AQUILA. I'M CONTACTING YOU AS WHITE KING OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB** TO REQUEST YOUR AID...
ONE MOMENT, MISS FROST.
THAT WILL BE ALL, ROBERTO.
AND CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!
THE **NERVE** OF THE MAN.
HE PREACHES ABOUT POLITICS AND DANGER AND HOW IT IS HIS HOLY DUTY TO KEEP US SAFE...
...THEN, THE SECOND THE WHITE QUEEN OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB** WHISPERS HIS NAME, HE **DISMISSES** ME.
SLAM!
HE'S NEVER HERE. HE *IGNORES* US, **BULLIES** US. HE EVEN **THREATENS** US...
...AND HE WON'T LET US **HEAR** WHAT'S HAPPENED TO AMARA--
AMARA? WHAT HAS **SHE** GOT TO DO WITH IT?

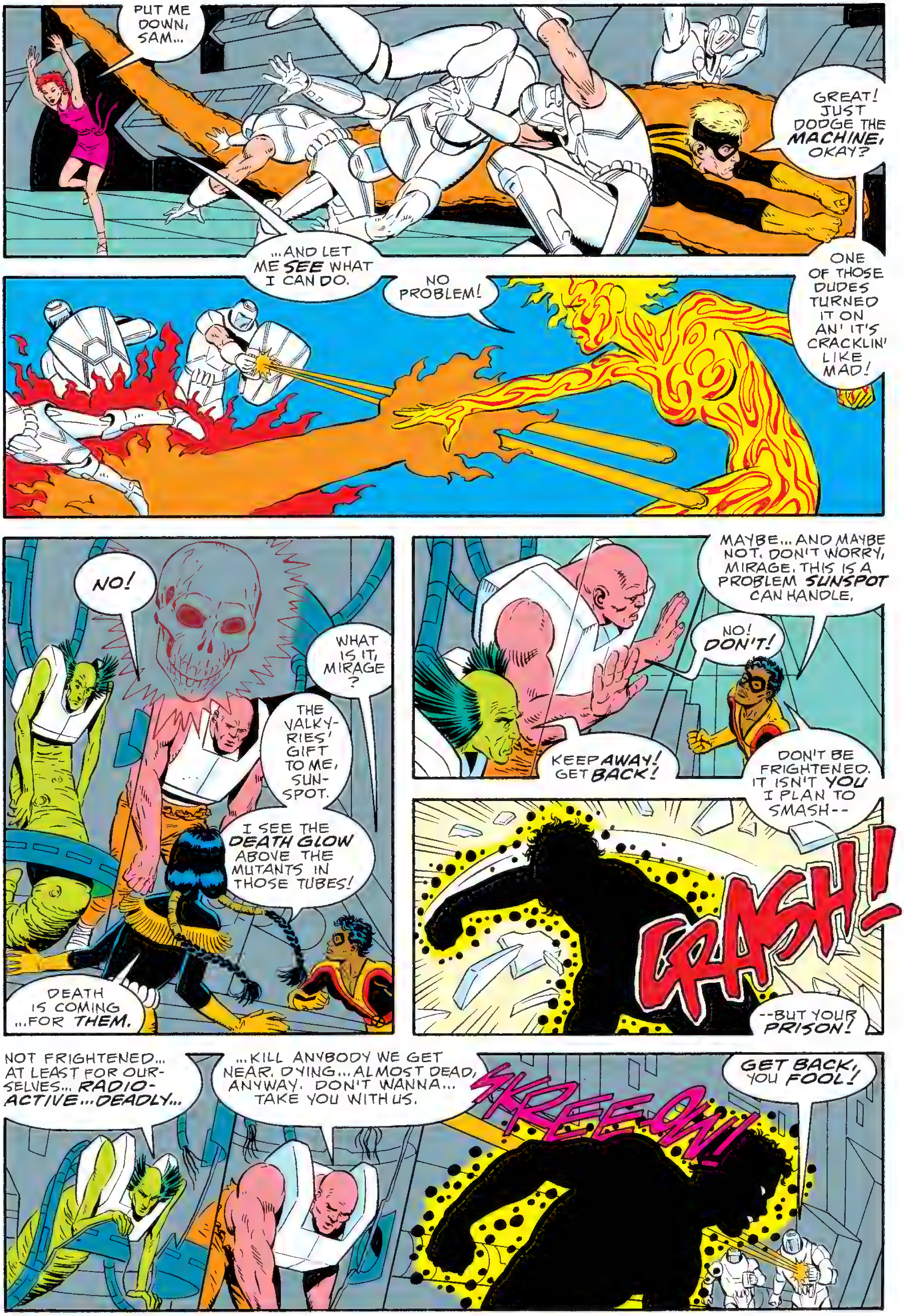

WHATEVER IT IS, WE BETTER FIND OUT!
I CAN'T HEAR!
WAIT... LET ME! MY HEARING WILL BE SHARPER AS A WOLF...
...AND I CAN **TELL** YOU, DANI, THROUGH OUR **PSI-LINK,** WHAT'S BEING SAID.
OH, MY GOODNESS!
AMARA'S BEEN KIDNAPED BY SOME PEOPLE WHO EMPATH THINKS WANT TO REMOVE HER POWER...
...BUT THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS PINPOINTED THE KIDNAPERS' HEADQUARTERS USING THEIR EQUIPMENT...
...AND EMPATH'S INFORMATION. THEY WANT--
HE'S **COMING! QUICK! MOVE!**
FEETS, DON'T FAIL SELF NOW!
NEW MUTANTS, FRONT AND CENTER!
I HAVE BEEN... CALLED **AWAY** FOR A WHILE.
AGAIN I REITERATE: YOU ARE NOT TO USE YOUR POWERS NOR LEAVE THE GROUNDS WHILE I AM GONE.

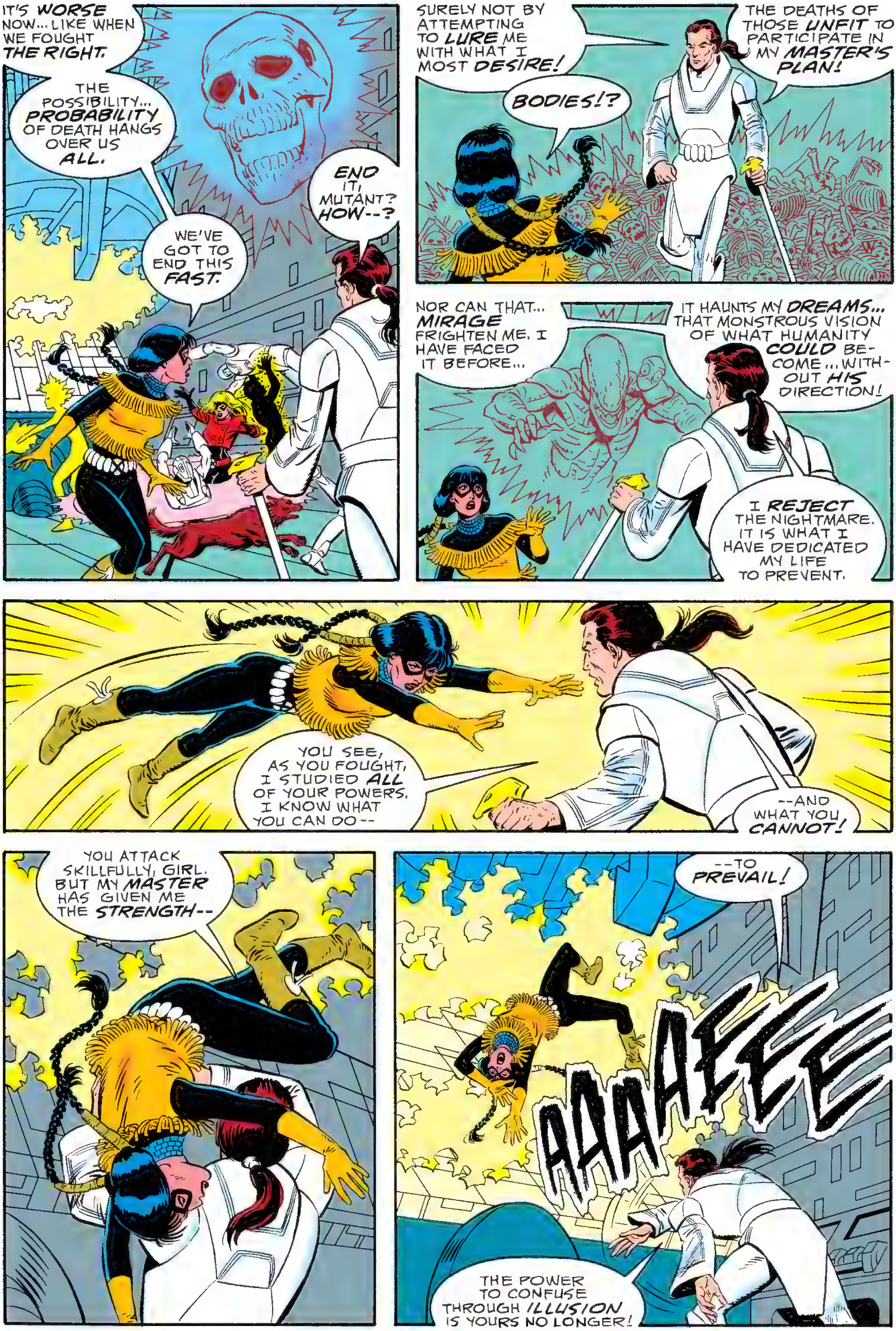

THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER. FLOUT IT AT YOUR PERIL.
DO NOT WORRY, MAGNETO MASTEROF-MAGNETISMSIR. SELF WOULDNOT CONSIDER IMPERILING SELF...
...WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE.
I JUST WISH WE KNEW WHERE AMARA'S GONE.
MY SCRYING GLASS WOULD HAVE FOUND HER, ONLY FORGE SHATTERED IT IN LIMBO.*
GIMME A BREAK. IT WASN'T LIKE FORGE EXACTLY ASKED TO BE THERE, ILLYANA.
*IN NEW MUTANTS #66. --BOB
PLEASE. IT DOESN'T MATTER. I KNOW WHERE AMARA IS. LONGITUDE AND LATITUDE. I HEARD. LET'S GO. PLEASE.
HEADMASTER-MAGNETO SAID --?
MAGNETO SAYS LOTS OF THINGS, 'LOCK. AND THEN HE RUNS OFF TO THE HELLFIRE CLUB...
...WHEN IF HE'D JUST TRUST US, HE'D ALREADY BE THERE KICKING THEIR TAILS!
BOBBY'S RIGHT. AMARA COULD DIE WHILE MAGNETO AND THE WHITE QUEEN TALK.
SO... I 'PORT US TO THE ATTIC... WE GRAB OUR GEAR...
...AND GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD. LONGITUDE 105 DEGREES, 50 MINUTES WEST; LATITUDE 44 DEGREES, 50 MINUTES, 34 SECONDS NORTH...

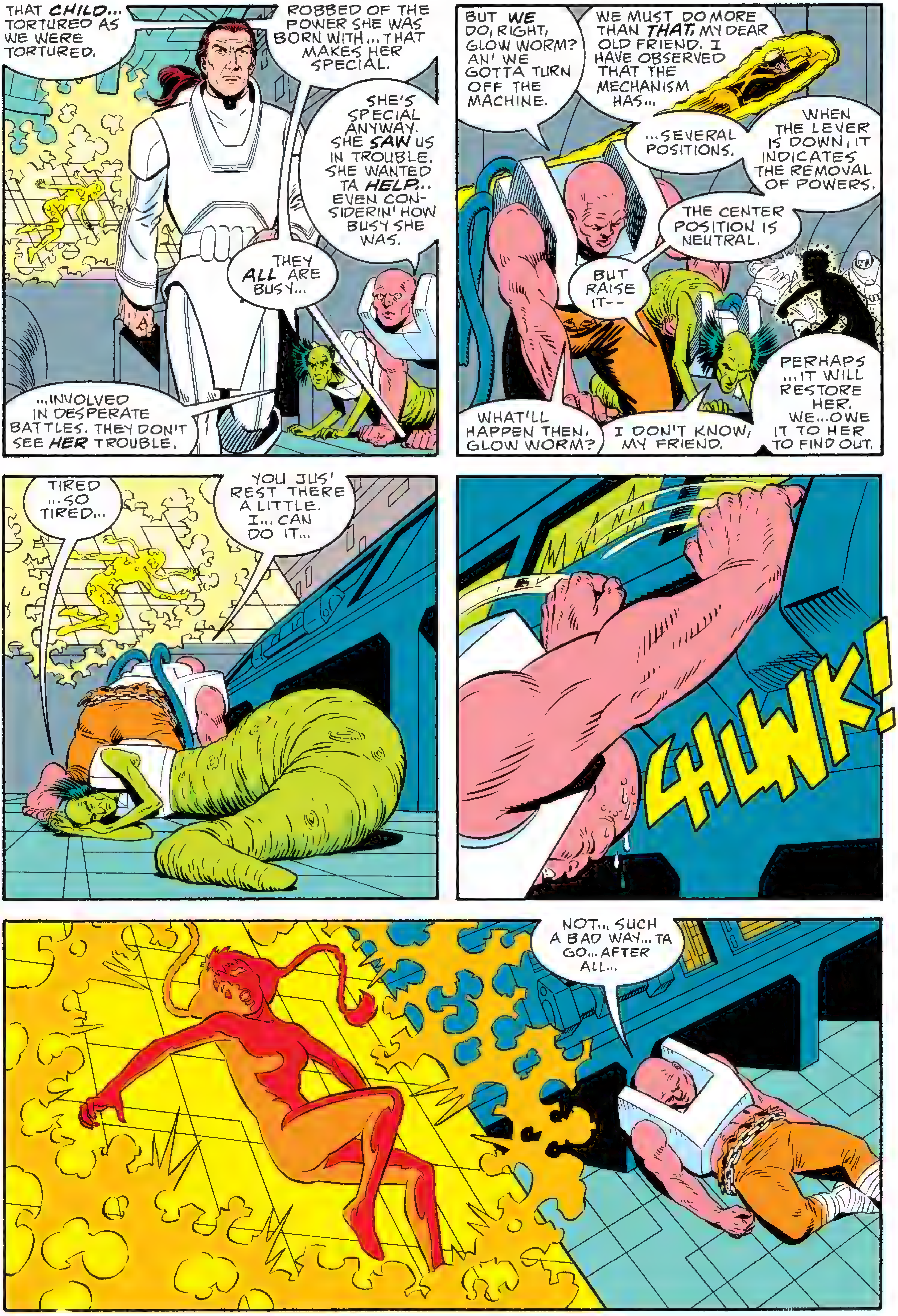

...HERE WE COME!
TALK ABOUT *HIGH-TECH!* WHO *ARE* THESE GUYS?
INTRUDERS!
STOP THEM!
AMARA'S UP THERE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CONTRAPTION DOES, BUT IT LOOKS PLENTY DEADLY.
C'MON, GUYS. *MOVE IT!*

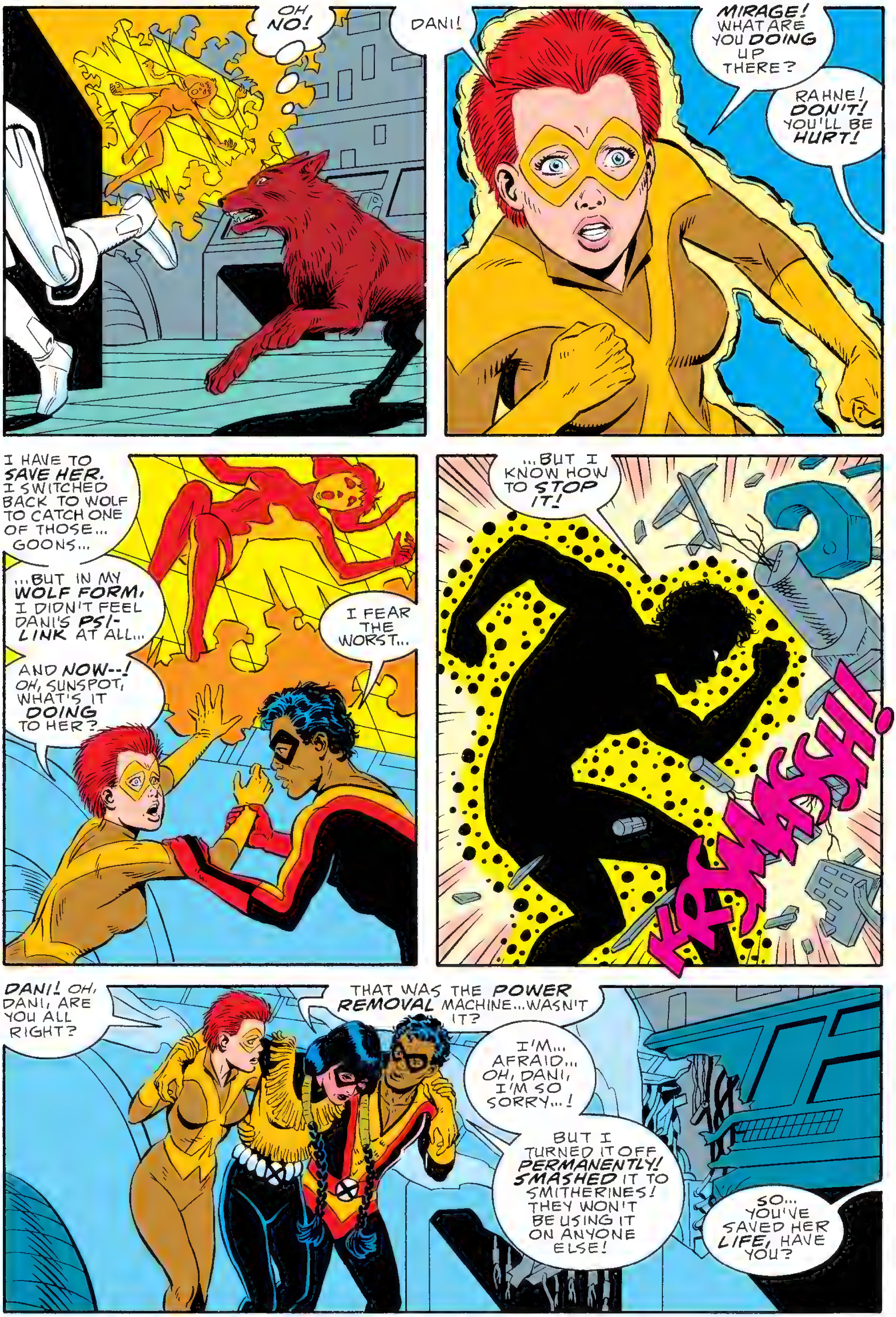

HERE, MAGIK-- CATCH!
GOOD PITCH, SUNSPOT!
AA!!!! EEE! WHERE ARE WE?
LIMBO. MY REALM, KIDNAPERS. JUST TELL THE DEMONS THAT THE DARKCHILDE SENT YOU.
THE DEVIL--COMING --AIEEE! NO, MASTER, NO OTHER GODS-- AAEEE!
YOU'RE SEEING A MIRAGE, GOON, YOUR GREATEST FEAR!
SKRASH!
BUT WHAT YOU'RE FEELING--
THUD!
--IS FOR REAL ...AND FOR KEEPS!
MUST GET TO AMARA!

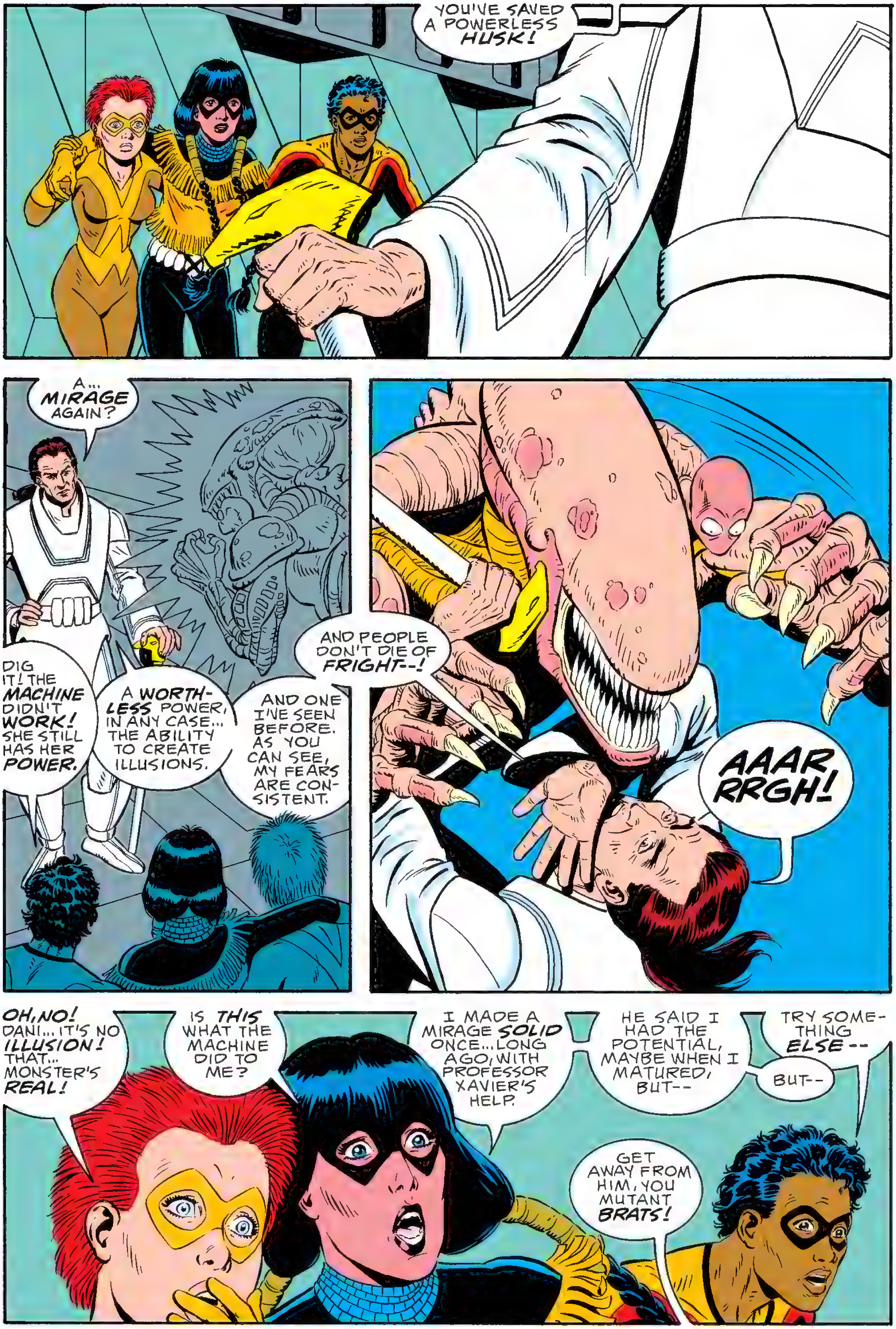

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
SHE'S *UNCONSCIOUS!*
THINK YOU'LL *FREE* HER, MUTANT?
CANNONBALL, HELP ME! *HURRY!*
YOU ARE BOTH FREE ...OF *POWERS--*
CHONK!
NO!
--NOW!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
RAHNE'S ALL RIGHT. IT DIDN'T *ZAP* YOU, DID IT, 'MARA?
'MARA-- YOU *OKAY? WAKE UP! SAY* SOMETHING!
S...SAM--? WHERE AM I? WHY AM I HERE? HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
NOTHIN' GOOD. YOU WERE KIDNAPED BY SOME GOONS WHO WANTED TO REMOVE YOUR POWER!
I... *THINK* WE GOT TO YOU IN TIME, BUT--
WHY DON'T WE ...FIND OUT?

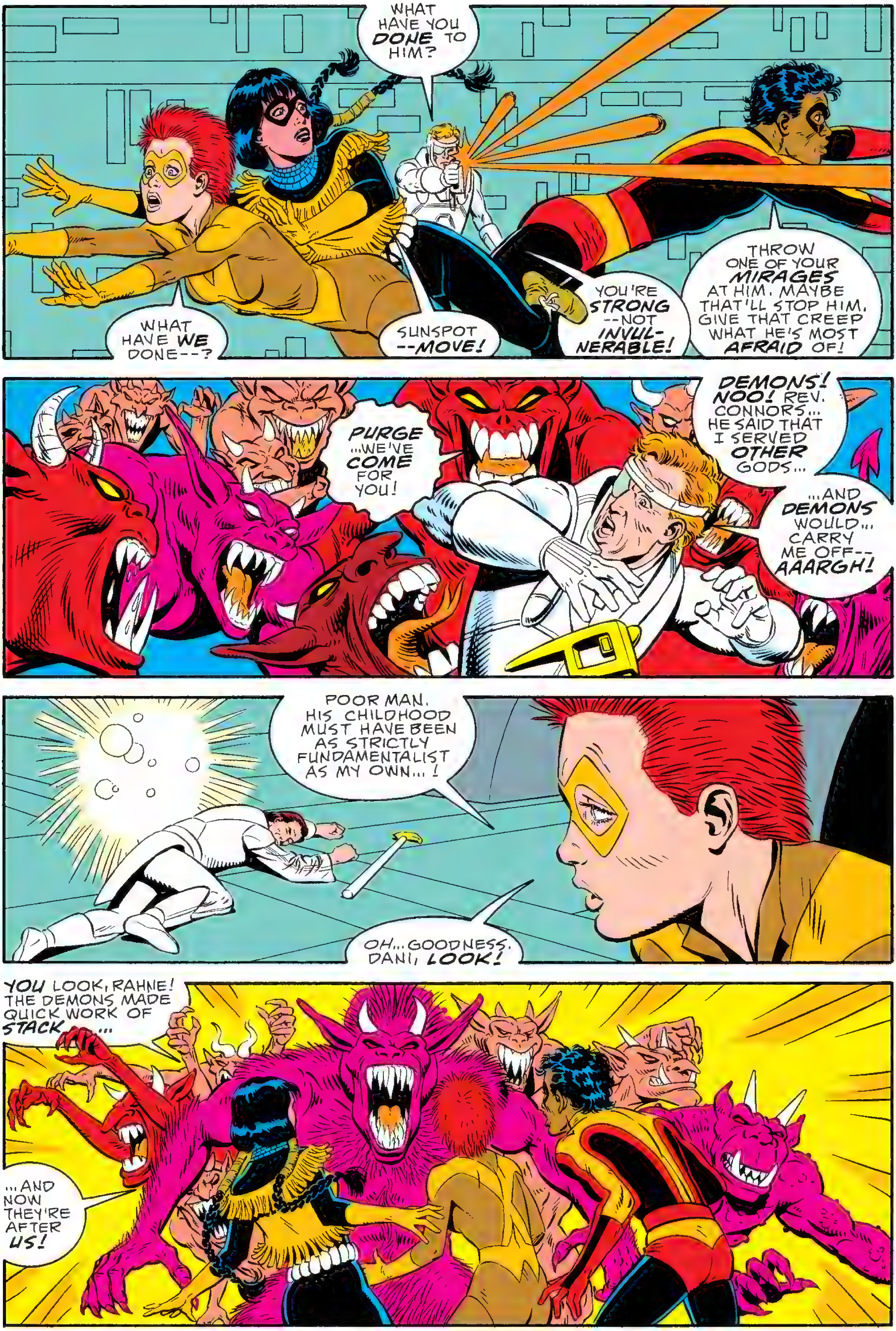

PUT ME DOWN, SAM...
GREAT! JUST DODGE THE *MACHINE*, OKAY?
...AND LET ME *SEE* WHAT I CAN DO.
NO PROBLEM!
ONE OF THOSE DUDES TURNED IT ON AN' IT'S CRACKLIN' LIKE MAD!
NO!
WHAT IS IT, MIRAGE?
THE VALKYRIES' GIFT TO ME, SUNSPOT.
I SEE THE *DEATH GLOW* ABOVE THE MUTANTS IN THOSE TUBES!
DEATH IS COMING ...FOR *THEM.*
MAYBE... AND MAYBE NOT. DON'T WORRY, MIRAGE. THIS IS A PROBLEM *SUNSPOT* CAN HANDLE.
NO! *DON'T!*
KEEP *AWAY!* GET *BACK!*
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. IT ISN'T *YOU* I PLAN TO SMASH--
CRASH!
--BUT YOUR *PRISON!*
NOT FRIGHTENED... AT LEAST FOR OURSELVES... *RADIOACTIVE...DEADLY...*
...KILL ANYBODY WE GET NEAR. DYING... ALMOST DEAD, ANYWAY. DON'T WANNA... TAKE YOU WITH US.
SKREEEOW!!
GET BACK, YOU FOOL!

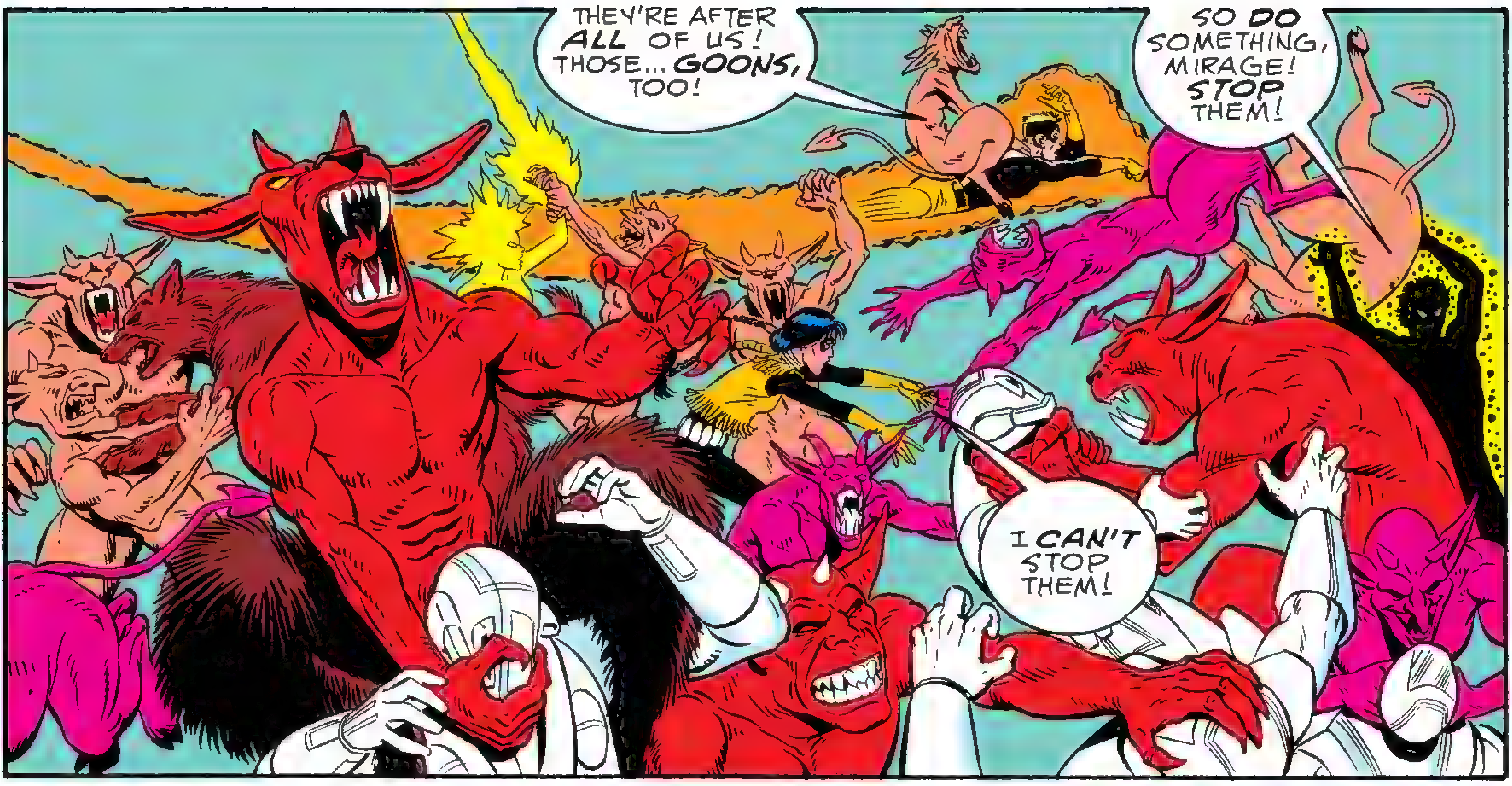

IT'S WORSE NOW... LIKE WHEN WE FOUGHT THE RIGHT.
THE POSSIBILITY... PROBABILITY OF DEATH HANGS OVER US ALL.
END IT, MUTANT? HOW--?
WE'VE GOT TO END THIS FAST.
SURELY NOT BY ATTEMPTING TO LURE ME WITH WHAT I MOST DESIRE!
THE DEATHS OF THOSE UNFIT TO PARTICIPATE IN MY MASTER'S PLAN!
BODIES!?
NOR CAN THAT... MIRAGE FRIGHTEN ME. I HAVE FACED IT BEFORE...
IT HAUNTS MY DREAMS... THAT MONSTROUS VISION OF WHAT HUMANITY COULD BECOME... WITHOUT HIS DIRECTION!
I REJECT THE NIGHTMARE. IT IS WHAT I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO PREVENT.
YOU SEE, AS YOU FOUGHT, I STUDIED ALL OF YOUR POWERS. I KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO--
--AND WHAT YOU CANNOT!
YOU ATTACK SKILLFULLY, GIRL. BUT MY MASTER HAS GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH--
--TO PREVAIL!
AAAAEEE
THE POWER TO CONFUSE THROUGH ILLUSION IS YOURS NO LONGER!

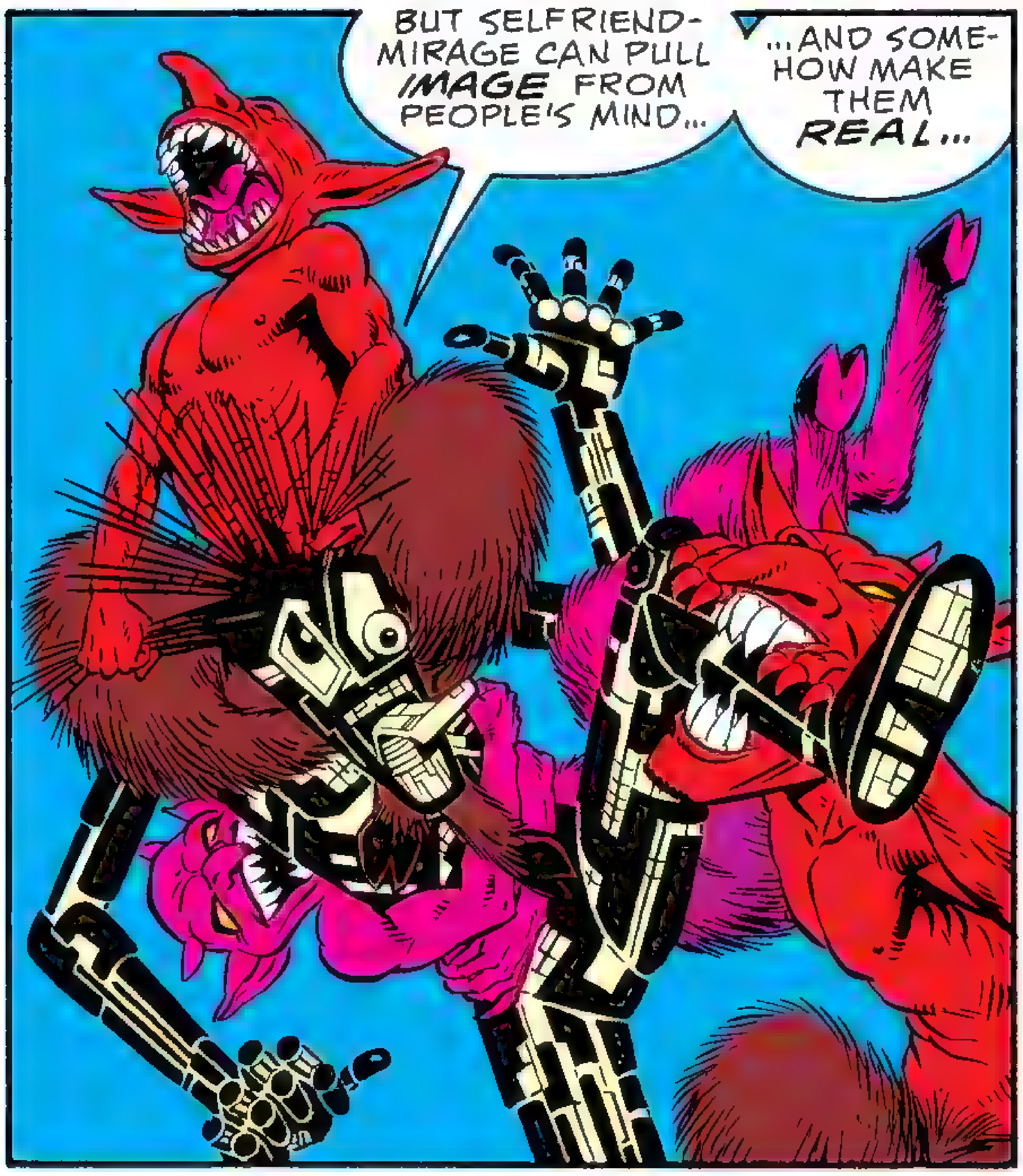

THAT CHILD... TORTURED AS WE WERE TORTURED.
ROBBED OF THE POWER SHE WAS BORN WITH... THAT MAKES HER SPECIAL.
SHE'S SPECIAL ANYWAY. SHE SAW US IN TROUBLE. SHE WANTED TA HELP... EVEN CONSIDERIN' HOW BUSY SHE WAS.
THEY ALL ARE BUSY...
...INVOLVED IN DESPERATE BATTLES. THEY DON'T SEE HER TROUBLE.
BUT WE DO, RIGHT, GLOW WORM? AN' WE GOTTA TURN OFF THE MACHINE.
WE MUST DO MORE THAN THAT, MY DEAR OLD FRIEND. I HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE MECHANISM HAS...
...SEVERAL POSITIONS.
WHEN THE LEVER IS DOWN, IT INDICATES THE REMOVAL OF POWERS.
THE CENTER POSITION IS NEUTRAL.
BUT RAISE IT--
WHAT'LL HAPPEN THEN, GLOW WORM?
I DON'T KNOW, MY FRIEND.
PERHAPS ...IT WILL RESTORE HER. WE...OWE IT TO HER TO FIND OUT.
TIRED ...SO TIRED...
YOU JUS' REST THERE A LITTLE. I... CAN DO IT...
CHUNK!
NOT... SUCH A BAD WAY... TA GO... AFTER ALL...

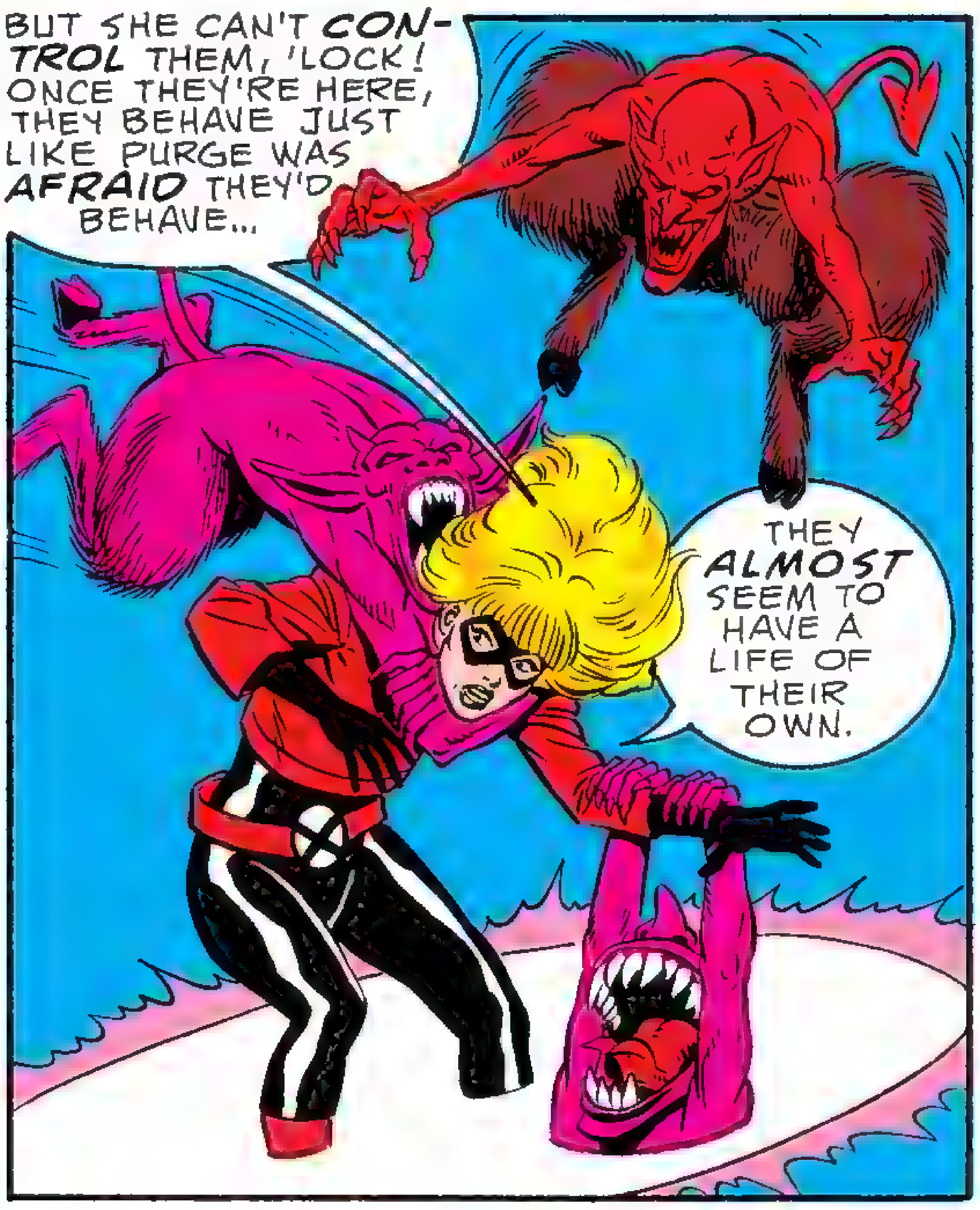

OH NO!
DANI!
MIRAGE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
RAHNE! DON'T! YOU'LL BE HURT!
I HAVE TO SAVE HER. I SWITCHED BACK TO WOLF TO CATCH ONE OF THOSE... GOONS...
...BUT IN MY WOLF FORM, I DIDN'T FEEL DANI'S PSI-LINK AT ALL...
AND NOW--! OH, SUNSPOT, WHAT'S IT DOING TO HER?
I FEAR THE WORST...
...BUT I KNOW HOW TO STOP IT!
KRAASH!
DANI! OH, DANI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT WAS THE POWER REMOVAL MACHINE...WASN'T IT?
I'M... AFRAID... OH, DANI, I'M SO SORRY...!
BUT I TURNED IT OFF PERMANENTLY! SMASHED IT TO SMITHERINES! THEY WON'T BE USING IT ON ANYONE ELSE!
SO... YOU'VE SAVED HER LIFE, HAVE YOU?

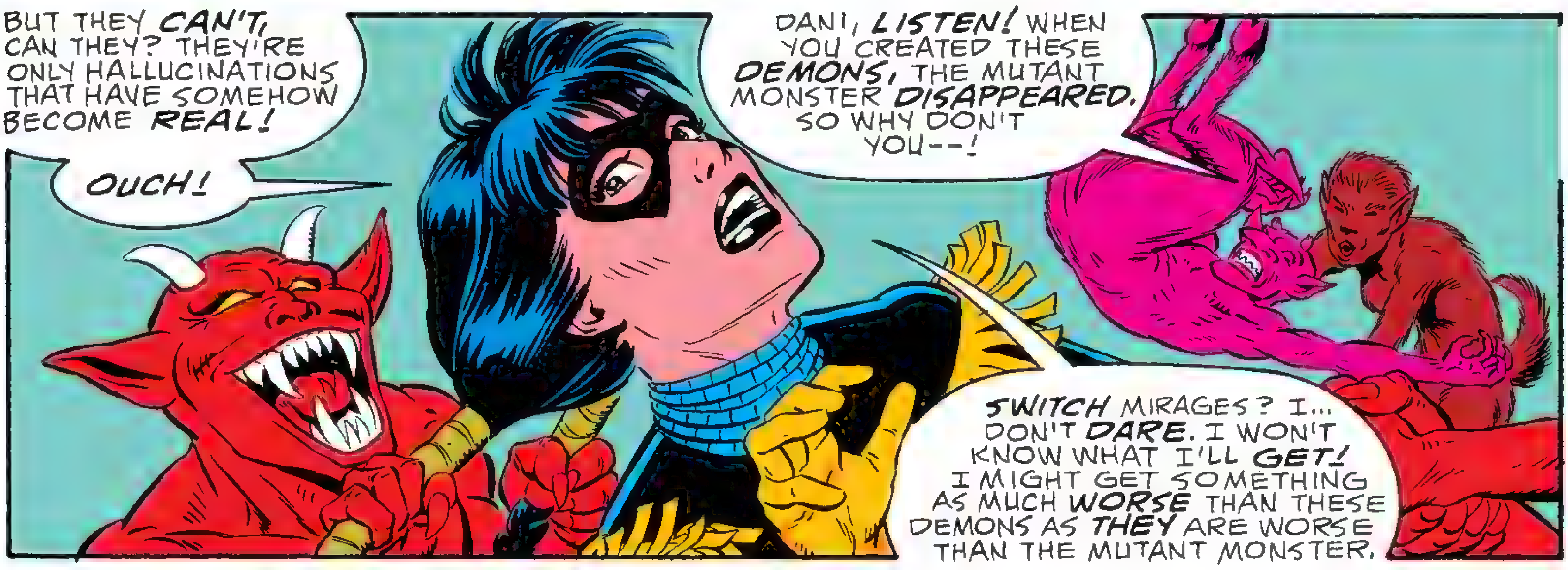

YOU'VE SAVED A POWERLESS *HUSK!*
A... *MIRAGE* AGAIN?
DIG IT! THE *MACHINE* DIDN'T *WORK!* SHE STILL HAS HER *POWER.*
A *WORTHLESS* POWER, IN ANY CASE... THE ABILITY TO CREATE ILLUSIONS.
AND ONE I'VE SEEN BEFORE. AS YOU CAN SEE, MY FEARS ARE CONSISTENT.
AND PEOPLE DON'T DIE OF *FRIGHT--!*
AAAR RRGH!
OH, NO! DANI... IT'S NO *ILLUSION!* THAT... MONSTER'S *REAL!*
IS *THIS* WHAT THE MACHINE DID TO ME?
I MADE A MIRAGE *SOLID* ONCE... LONG AGO, WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER'S HELP.
HE SAID I HAD THE POTENTIAL, MAYBE WHEN I MATURED, BUT--
TRY SOMETHING *ELSE* --
BUT--
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU MUTANT *BRATS!*

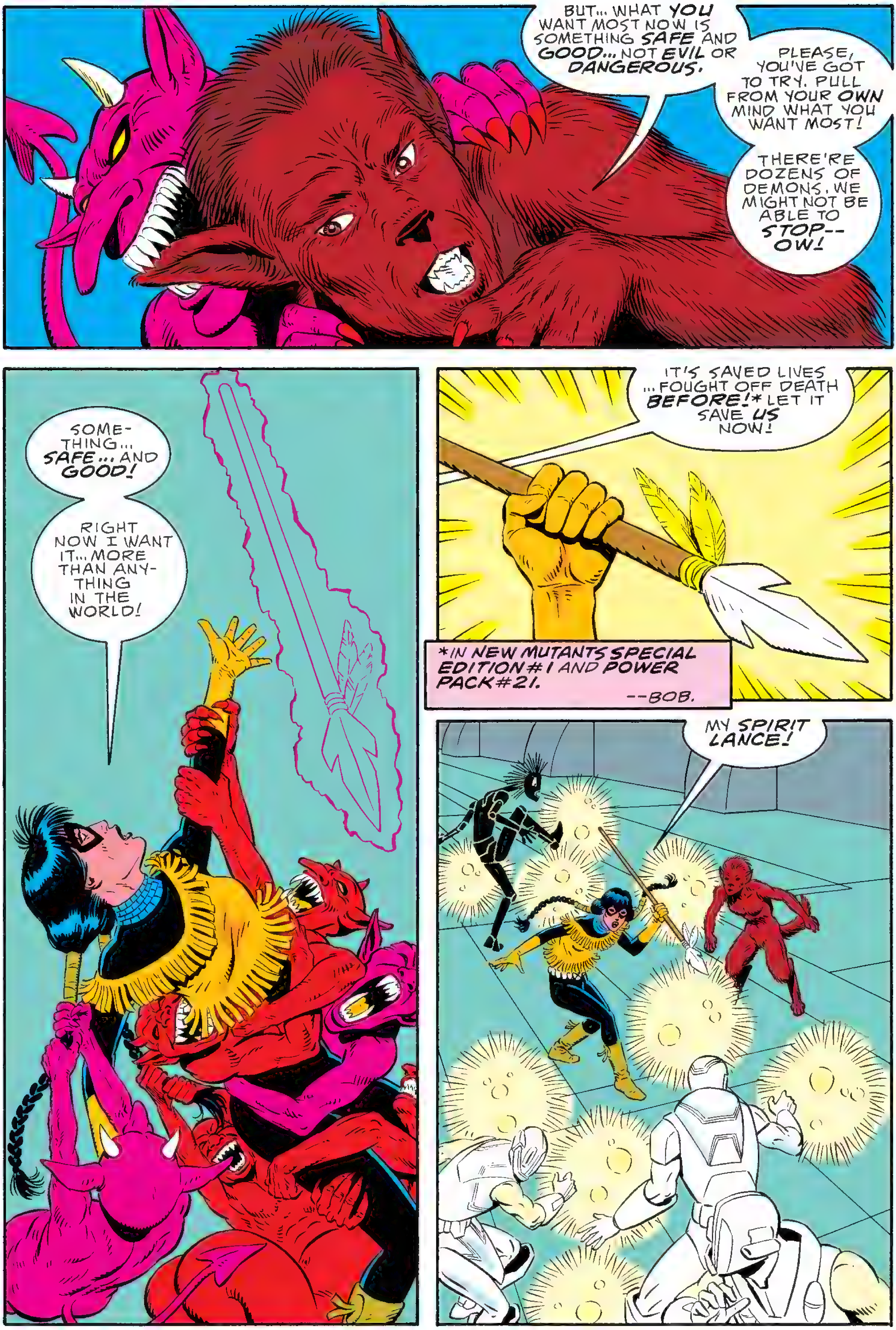

WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* TO HIM?
WHAT HAVE *WE* DONE--?
SUNSPOT *--MOVE!*
YOU'RE *STRONG* --NOT *INVULNERABLE!*
THROW ONE OF YOUR *MIRAGES* AT HIM. MAYBE THAT'LL STOP HIM. GIVE THAT CREEP WHAT HE'S MOST *AFRAID* OF!
PURGE ...WE'VE *COME* FOR YOU!
DEMONS! NOO! REV. CONNORS... HE SAID THAT I SERVED *OTHER* GODS...
...AND *DEMONS* WOULD... CARRY ME OFF-- *AAARGH!*
POOR MAN. HIS CHILDHOOD MUST HAVE BEEN AS STRICTLY FUNDAMENTALIST AS MY OWN... !
OH... GOODNESS. DANI, *LOOK!*
YOU LOOK, RAHNE! THE DEMONS MADE QUICK WORK OF *STACK*...
...AND NOW THEY'RE AFTER *US!*

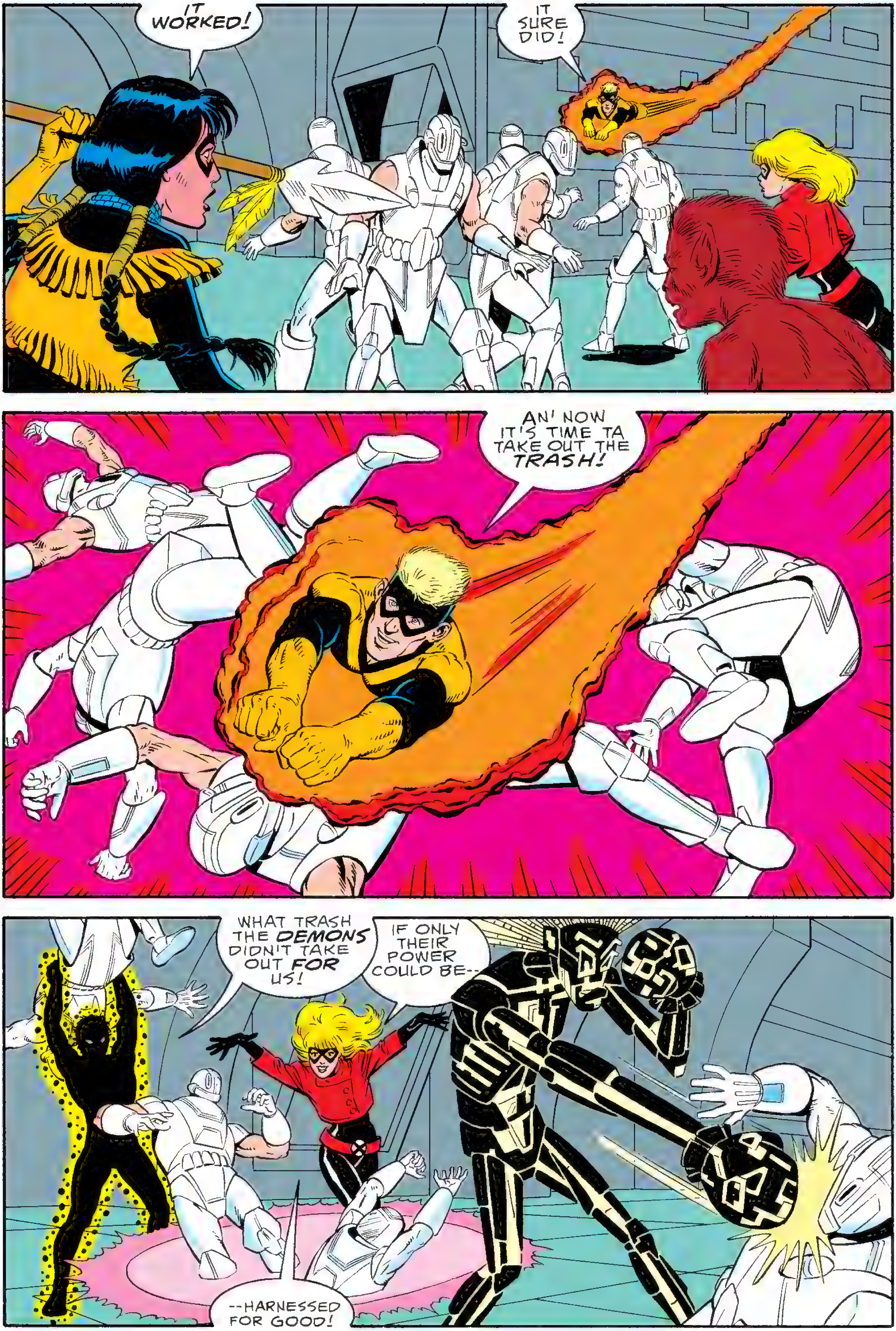

THEY'RE AFTER ALL OF US! THOSE... GOONS, TOO!
SO DO SOMETHING, MIRAGE! STOP THEM!
I CAN'T STOP THEM!

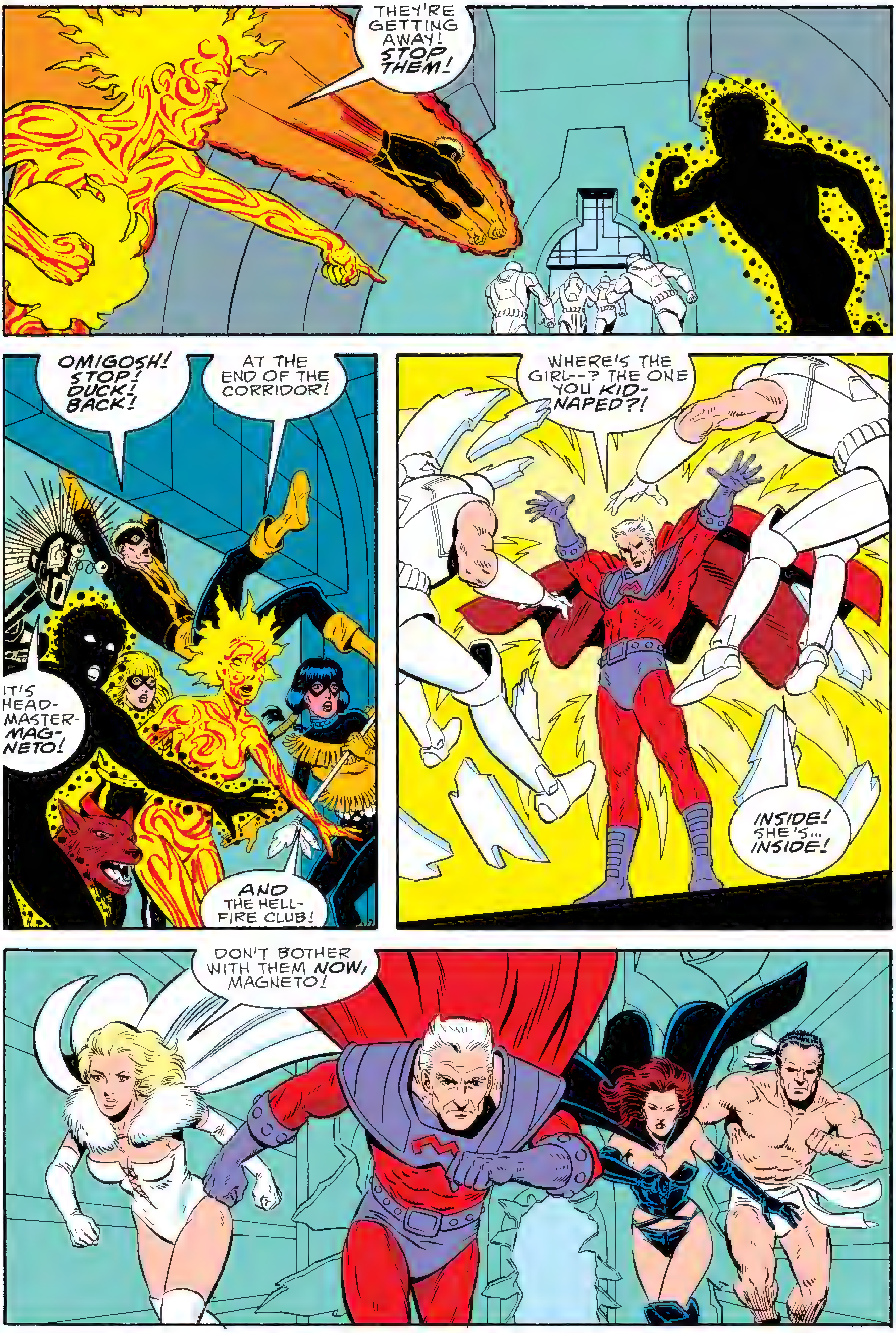

BUT SELFRIEND-MIRAGE CAN PULL IMAGE FROM PEOPLE'S MIND...
...AND SOMEHOW MAKE THEM REAL...

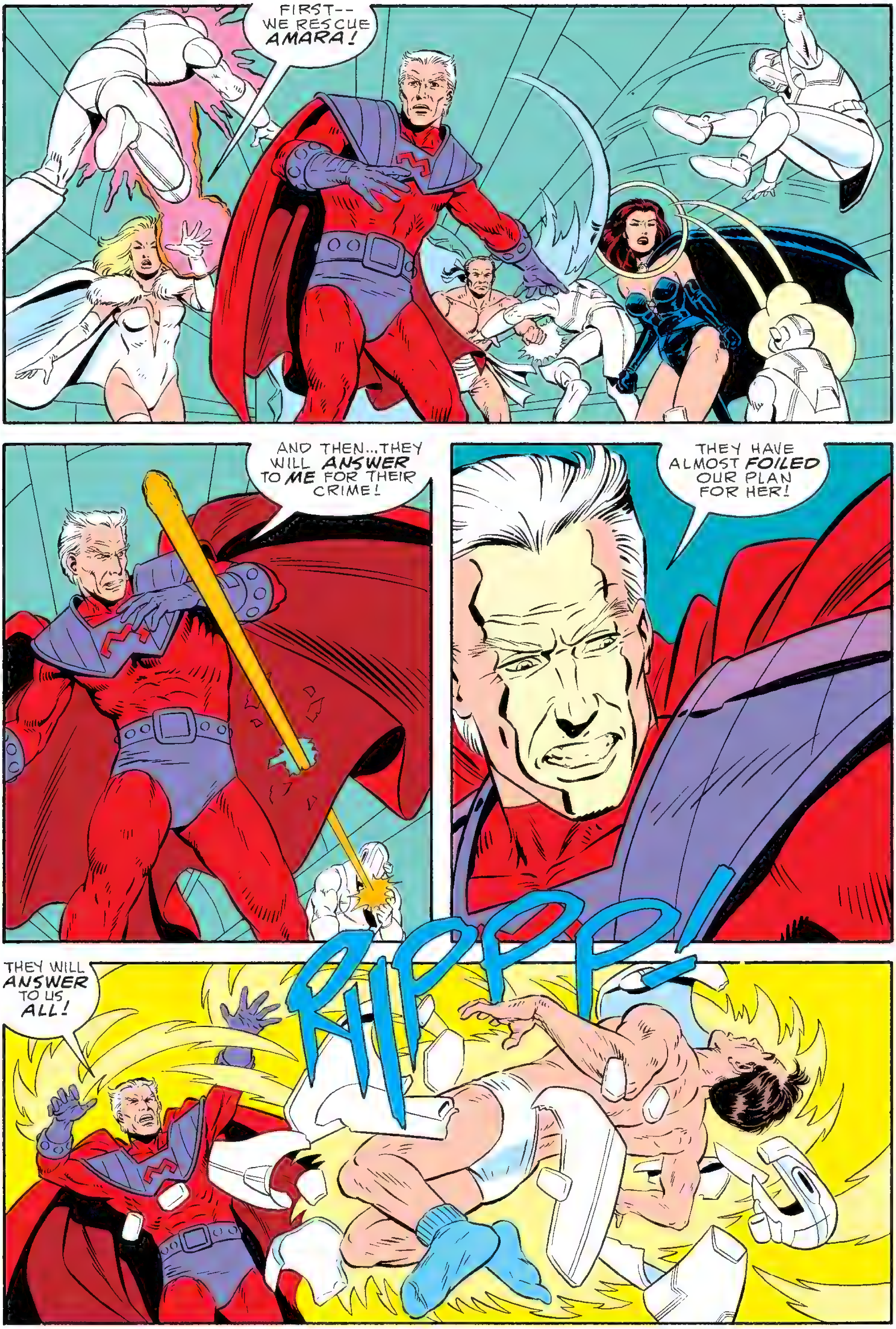

BUT SHE CAN'T CONTROL THEM, 'LOCK! ONCE THEY'RE HERE, THEY BEHAVE JUST LIKE PURGE WAS AFRAID THEY'D BEHAVE...
THEY ALMOST SEEM TO HAVE A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

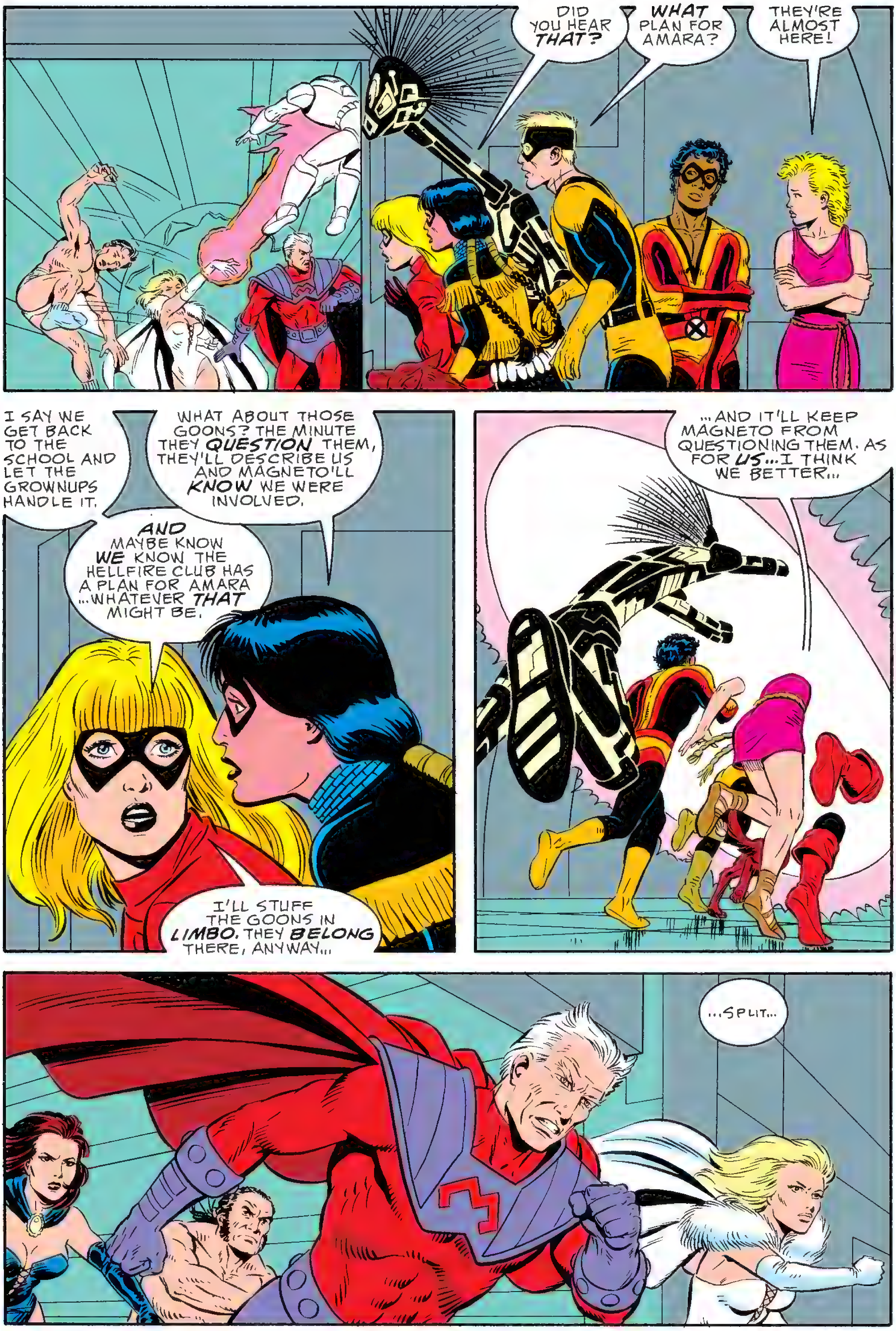

BUT THEY CAN'T, CAN THEY? THEY'RE ONLY HALLUCINATIONS THAT HAVE SOMEHOW BECOME REAL!
OUCH!
DANI, LISTEN! WHEN YOU CREATED THESE DEMONS, THE MUTANT MONSTER DISAPPEARED. SO WHY DON'T YOU--!
SWITCH MIRAGES? I... DON'T DARE. I WON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL GET! I MIGHT GET SOMETHING AS MUCH WORSE THAN THESE DEMONS AS THEY ARE WORSE THAN THE MUTANT MONSTER.

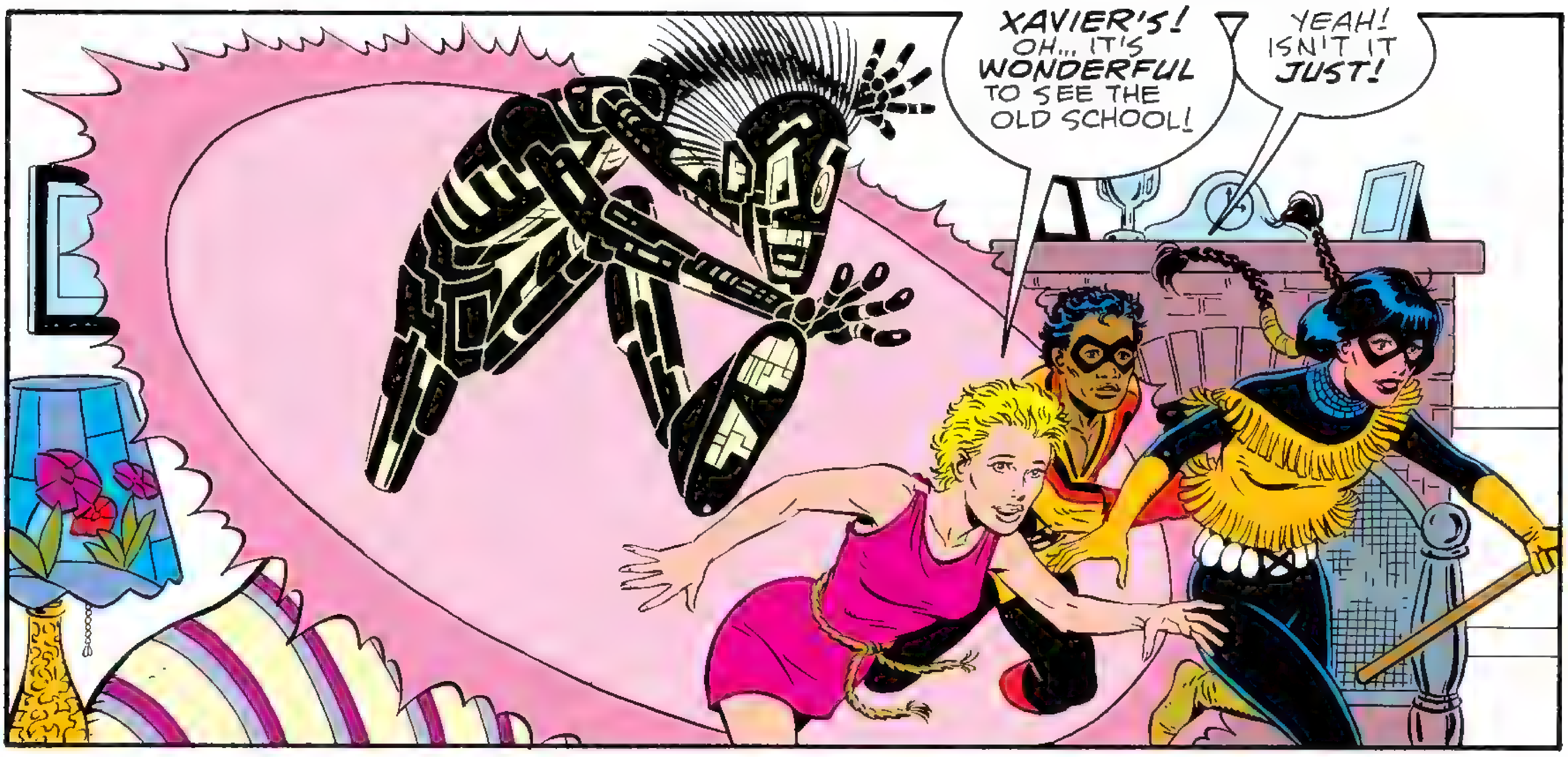

BUT... WHAT YOU WANT MOST NOW IS SOMETHING SAFE AND GOOD... NOT EVIL OR DANGEROUS.
PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO TRY. PULL FROM YOUR OWN MIND WHAT YOU WANT MOST!
THERE'RE DOZENS OF DEMONS. WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STOP-- OW!
SOMETHING... SAFE... AND GOOD!
RIGHT NOW I WANT IT... MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD!
IT'S SAVED LIVES ...FOUGHT OFF DEATH BEFORE!* LET IT SAVE US NOW!
*IN NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1 AND POWER PACK #21. --BOB.
MY SPIRIT LANCE!

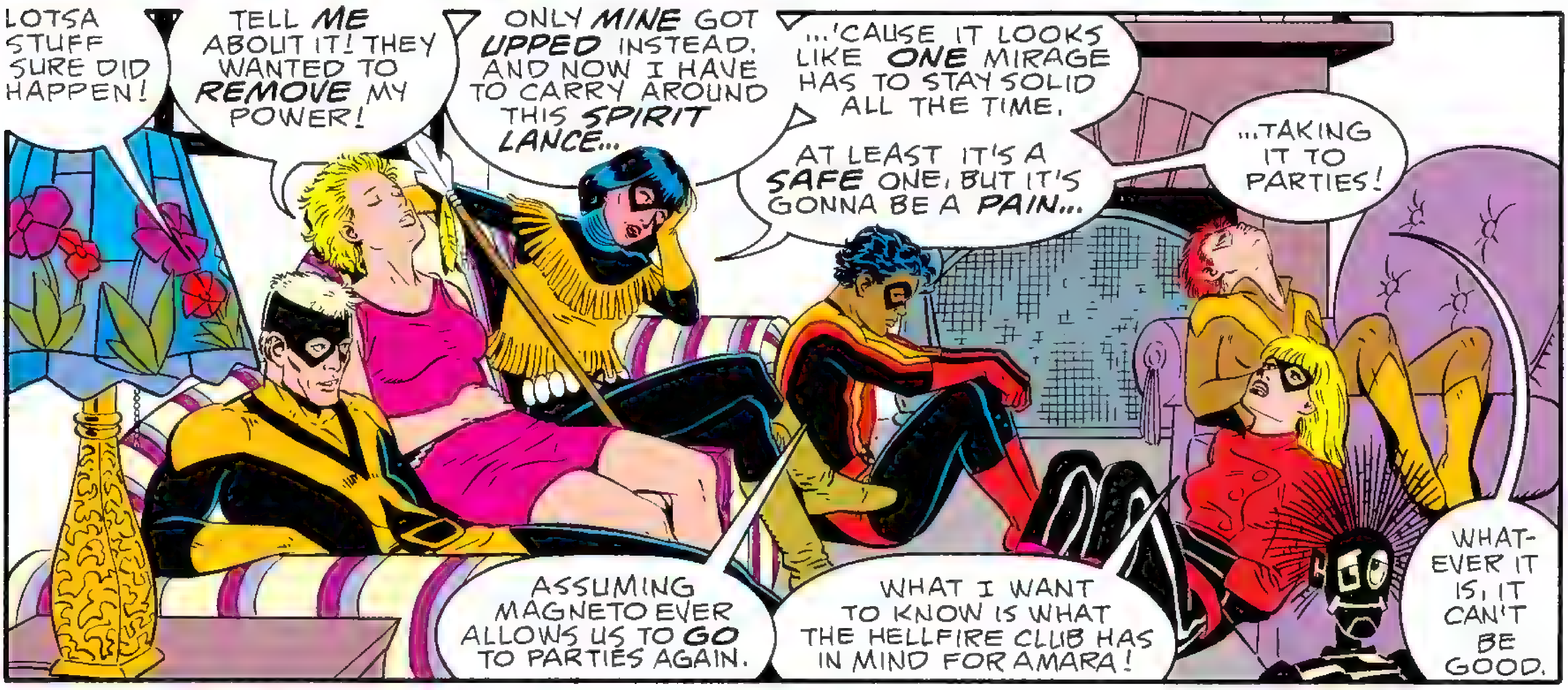

IT WORKED!
IT SURE DID!
AN' NOW IT'S TIME TA TAKE OUT THE TRASH!
WHAT TRASH THE DEMONS DIDN'T TAKE OUT FOR US!
IF ONLY THEIR POWER COULD BE--
--HARNESSED FOR GOOD!

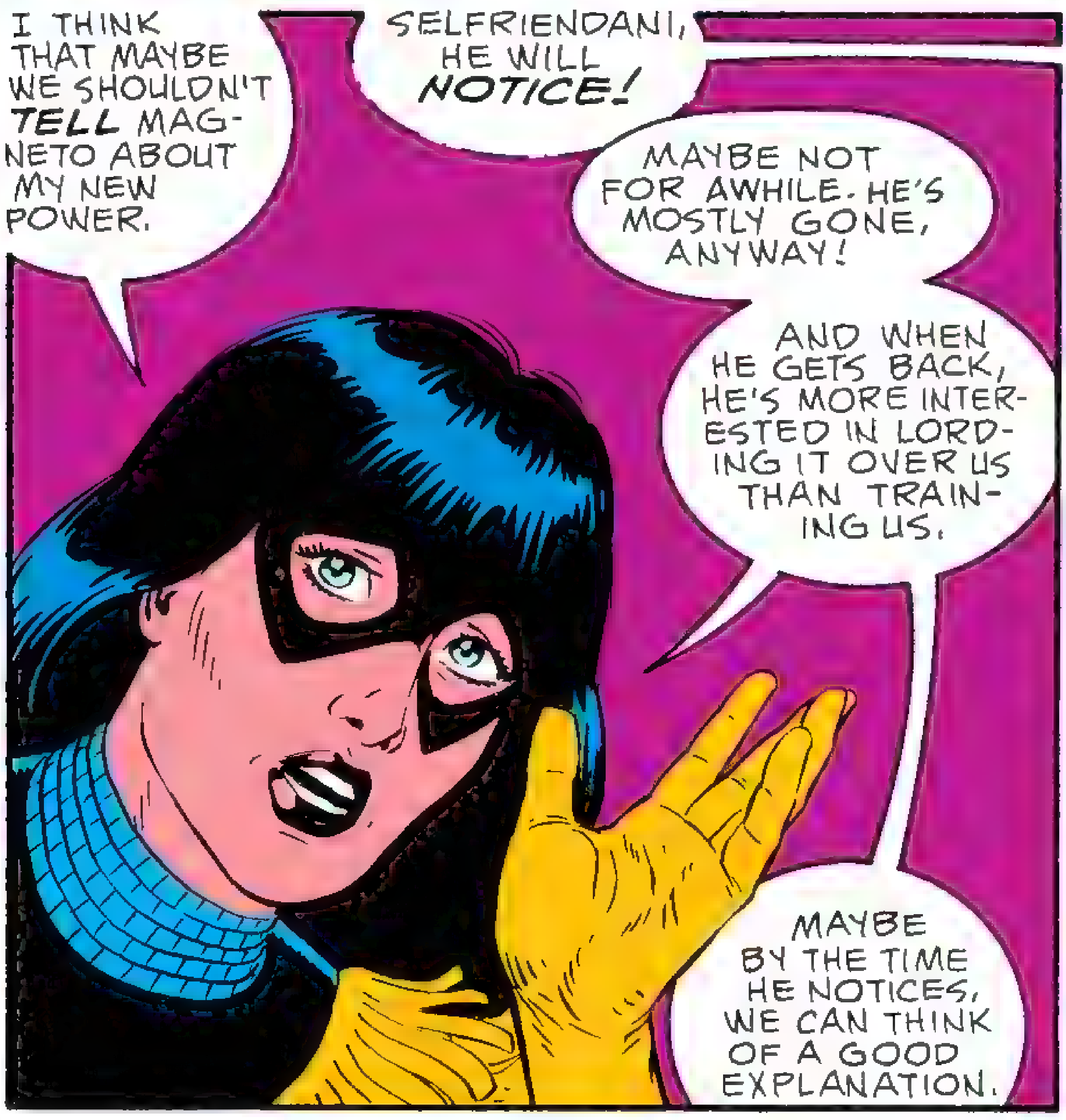

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! *STOP THEM!*
OMIGOSH! STOP! DUCK! BACK!
AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR!
IT'S HEADMASTER-*MAGNETO!*
AND THE HELLFIRE CLUB!
WHERE'S THE GIRL--? THE ONE YOU *KIDNAPED?!*
INSIDE! SHE'S... *INSIDE!*
DON'T BOTHER WITH THEM *NOW,* MAGNETO!

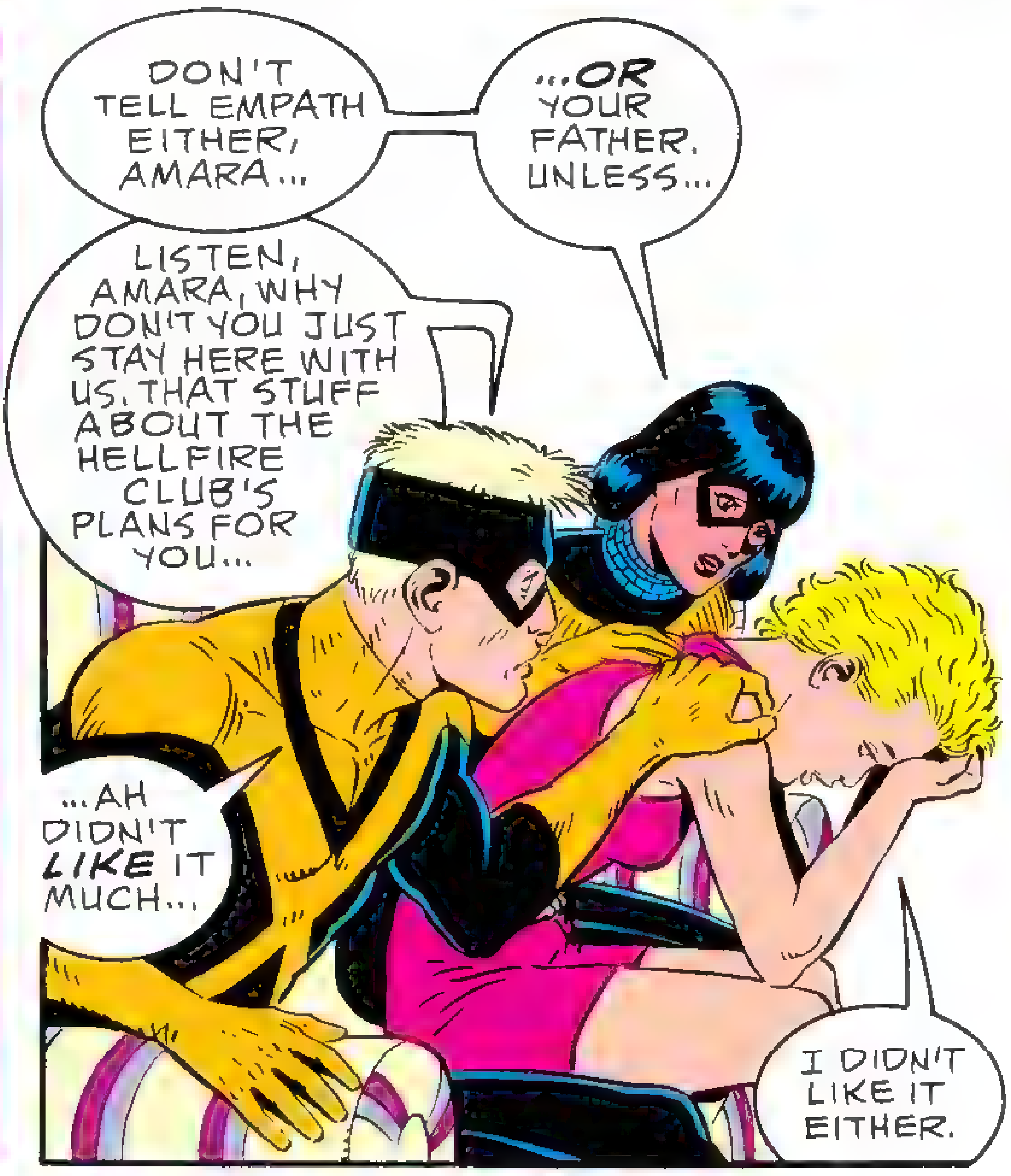

FIRST-- WE RESCUE AMARA!
AND THEN...THEY WILL ANSWER TO ME FOR THEIR CRIME!
THEY HAVE ALMOST FOILED OUR PLAN FOR HER!
RIPPP!
THEY WILL ANSWER TO US ALL!

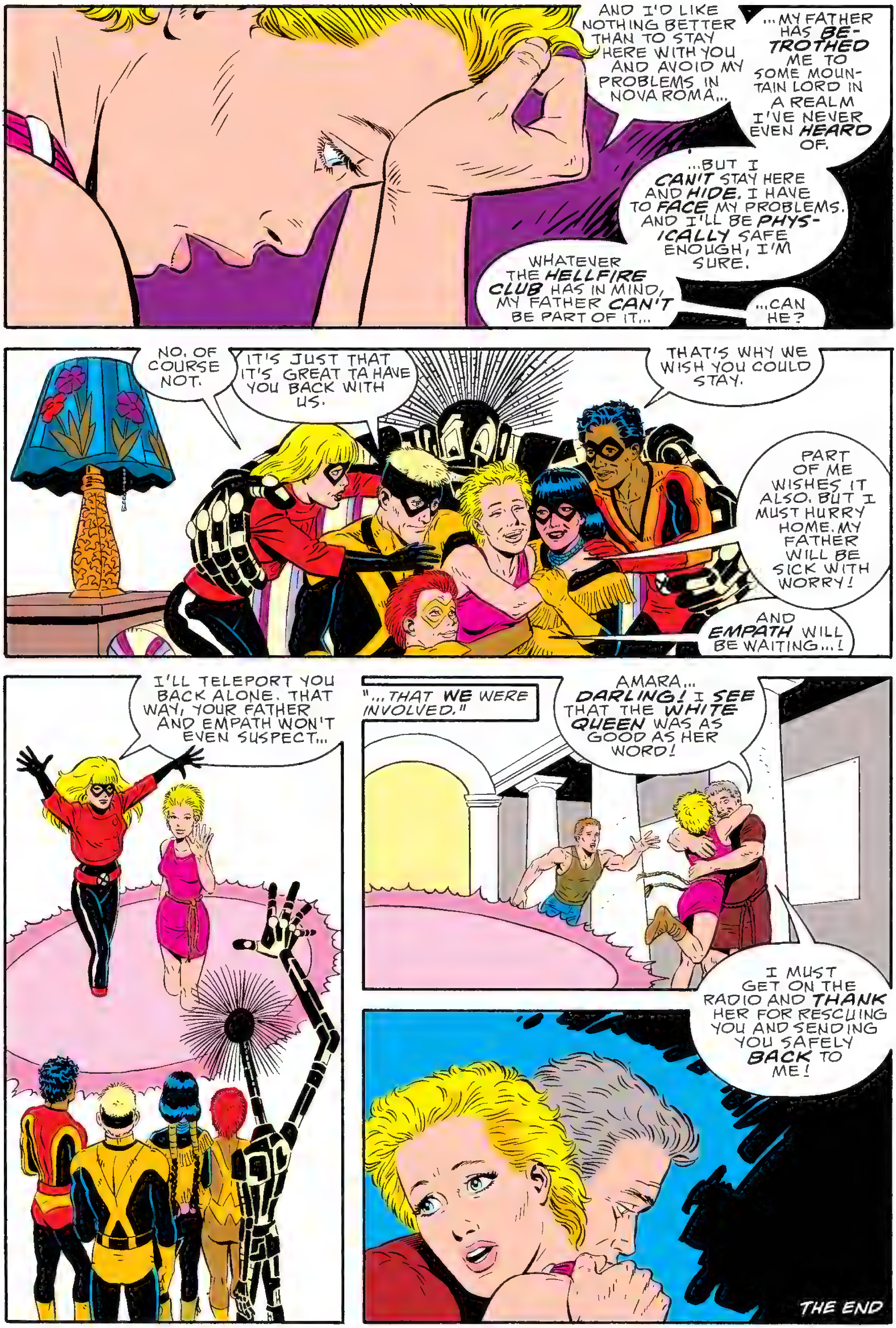

DID YOU HEAR *THAT?*
WHAT PLAN FOR AMARA?
THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!
I SAY WE GET BACK TO THE SCHOOL AND LET THE GROWNUPS HANDLE IT.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE GOONS? THE MINUTE THEY *QUESTION* THEM, THEY'LL DESCRIBE US AND MAGNETO'LL *KNOW* WE WERE INVOLVED.
AND MAYBE KNOW *WE* KNOW THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS A PLAN FOR AMARA ...WHATEVER *THAT* MIGHT BE.
I'LL STUFF THE GOONS IN *LIMBO.* THEY *BELONG* THERE, ANYWAY...
...AND IT'LL KEEP MAGNETO FROM QUESTIONING THEM. AS FOR *US*...I THINK WE BETTER...
...SPLIT...

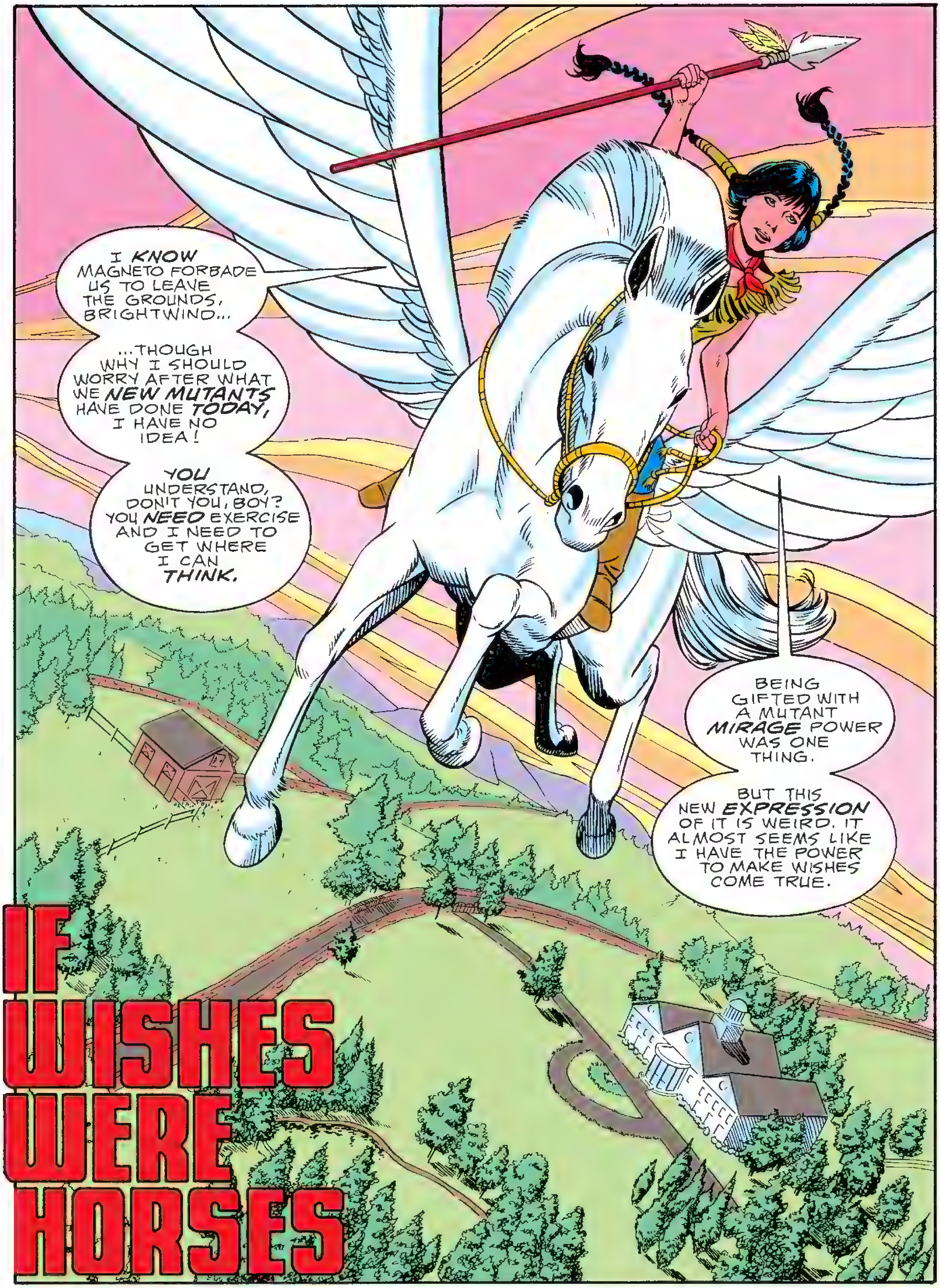

XAVIER'S! OH... IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE THE OLD SCHOOL!
YEAH! ISN'T IT JUST!


LOTSA STUFF SURE DID HAPPEN!
TELL ME ABOUT IT! THEY WANTED TO REMOVE MY POWER!
ONLY MINE GOT UPPED INSTEAD. AND NOW I HAVE TO CARRY AROUND THIS SPIRIT LANCE...
...'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE ONE MIRAGE HAS TO STAY SOLID ALL THE TIME.
AT LEAST IT'S A SAFE ONE, BUT IT'S GONNA BE A PAIN...
...TAKING IT TO PARTIES!
ASSUMING MAGNETO EVER ALLOWS US TO GO TO PARTIES AGAIN.
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS IN MIND FOR AMARA!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT CAN'T BE GOOD.

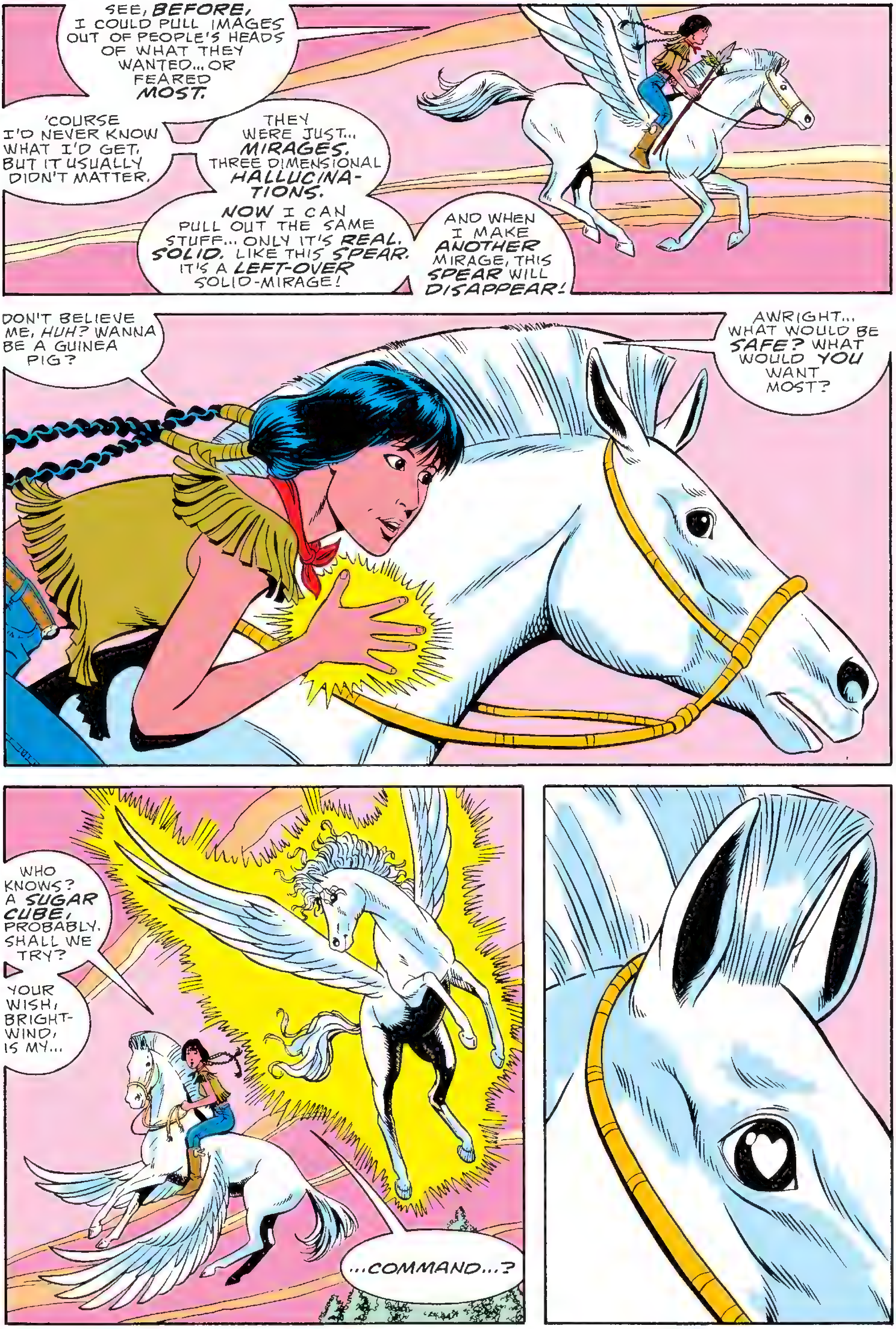

I THINK THAT MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T TELL MAGNETO ABOUT MY NEW POWER.
SELFRIENDANI, HE WILL NOTICE!
MAYBE NOT FOR AWHILE. HE'S MOSTLY GONE, ANYWAY!
AND WHEN HE GETS BACK, HE'S MORE INTERESTED IN LORDING IT OVER US THAN TRAINING US.
MAYBE BY THE TIME HE NOTICES, WE CAN THINK OF A GOOD EXPLANATION.

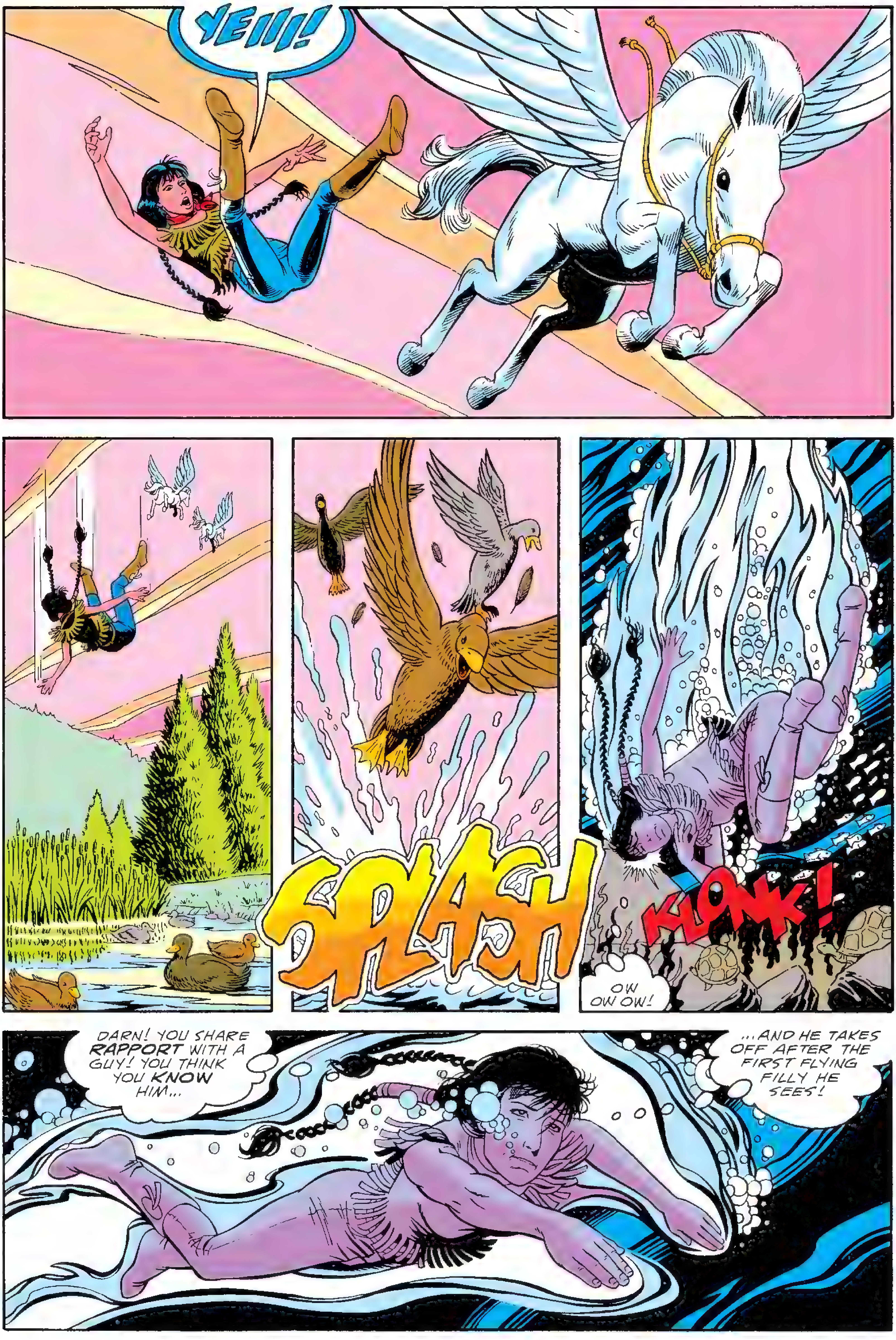

DON'T TELL EMPATH EITHER, AMARA...
...OR YOUR FATHER. UNLESS...
LISTEN, AMARA, WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY HERE WITH US. THAT STUFF ABOUT THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S PLANS FOR YOU...
...AH DIDN'T LIKE IT MUCH...
I DIDN'T LIKE IT EITHER.

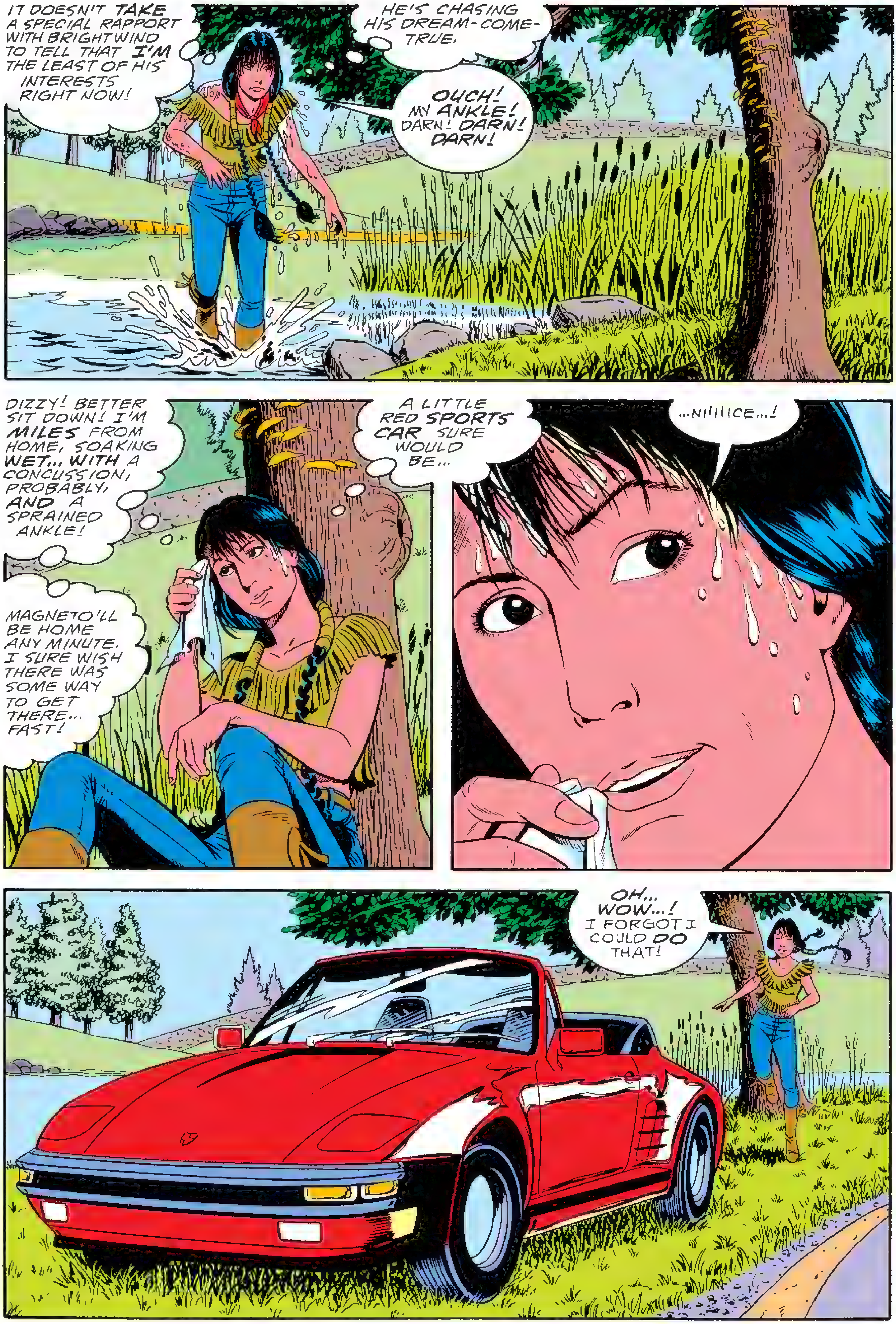

AND I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO STAY HERE WITH YOU AND AVOID MY PROBLEMS IN NOVA ROMA...
...MY FATHER HAS BETROTHED ME TO SOME MOUNTAIN LORD IN A REALM I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF.
...BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE AND HIDE. I HAVE TO FACE MY PROBLEMS. AND I'LL BE PHYSICALLY SAFE ENOUGH, I'M SURE.
WHATEVER THE HELLFIRE CLUB HAS IN MIND, MY FATHER CAN'T BE PART OF IT...
...CAN HE?
NO. OF COURSE NOT.
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S GREAT TA HAVE YOU BACK WITH US.
THAT'S WHY WE WISH YOU COULD STAY.
PART OF ME WISHES IT ALSO. BUT I MUST HURRY HOME. MY FATHER WILL BE SICK WITH WORRY!
AND EMPATH WILL BE WAITING...!
I'LL TELEPORT YOU BACK ALONE. THAT WAY, YOUR FATHER AND EMPATH WON'T EVEN SUSPECT...
"...THAT WE WERE INVOLVED."
AMARA... DARLING! I SEE THAT THE WHITE QUEEN WAS AS GOOD AS HER WORD!
I MUST GET ON THE RADIO AND THANK HER FOR RESCUING YOU AND SENDING YOU SAFELY BACK TO ME!
THE END

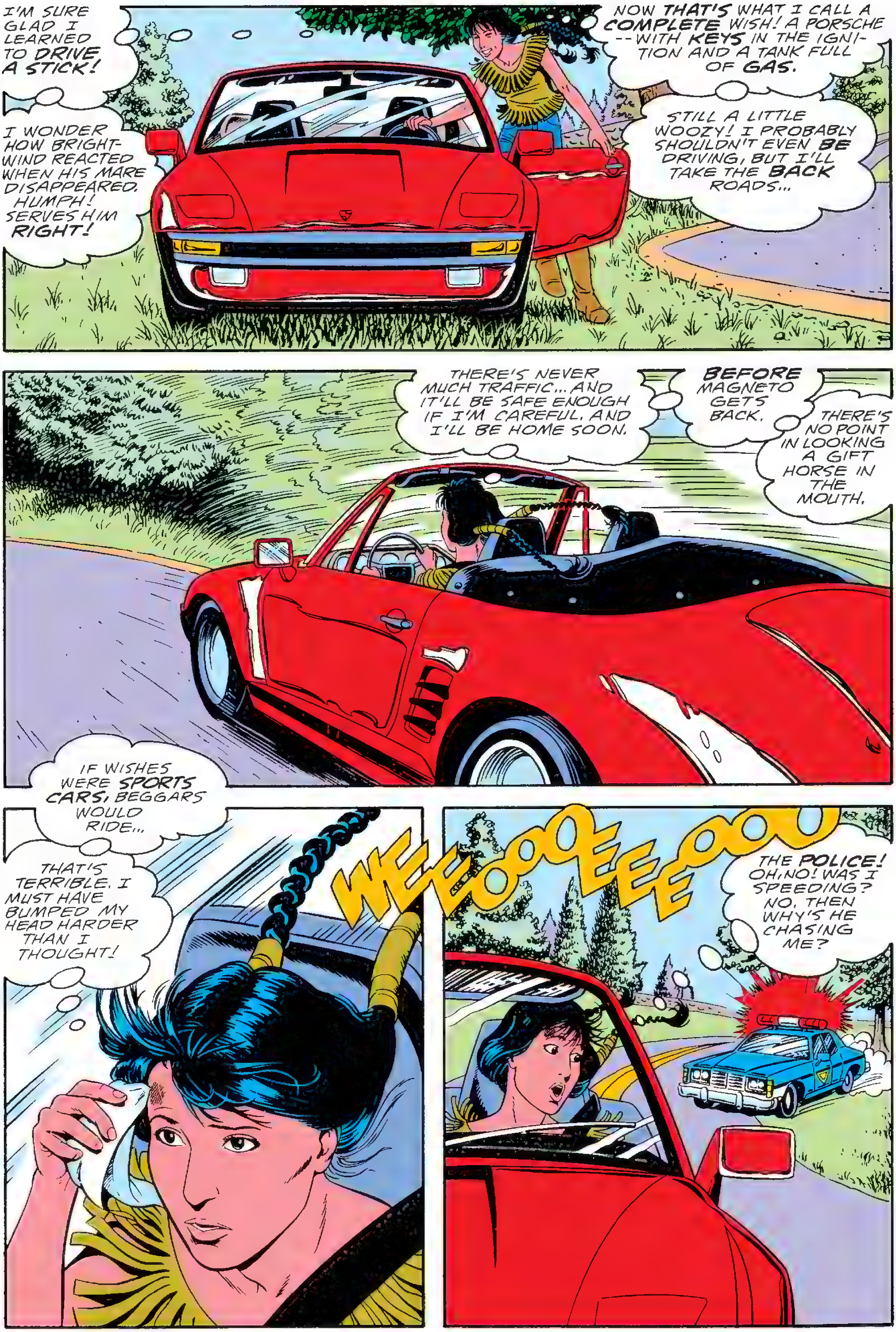

I *KNOW* MAGNETO FORBADE US TO LEAVE THE GROUNDS, BRIGHTWIND...
...THOUGH WHY I SHOULD WORRY AFTER WHAT WE *NEW MUTANTS* HAVE DONE *TODAY*, I HAVE NO IDEA!
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, BOY? YOU *NEED* EXERCISE AND I NEED TO GET WHERE I CAN *THINK.*
BEING GIFTED WITH A MUTANT *MIRAGE* POWER WAS ONE THING.
BUT THIS NEW *EXPRESSION* OF IT IS WEIRD. IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE I HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE WISHES COME TRUE.
IF WISHES WERE HORSES

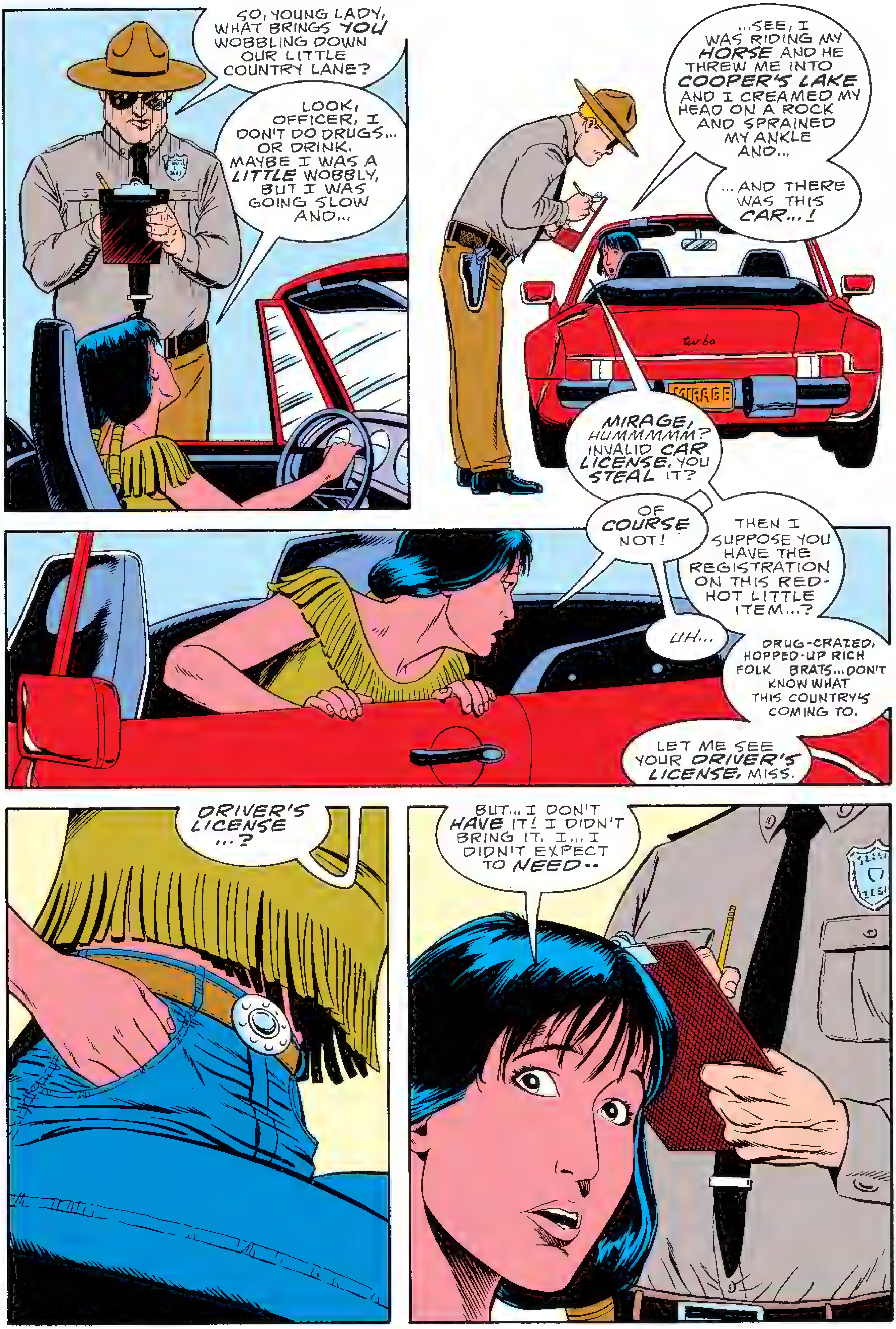
A STORY BY
LOUISE SIMONSON–WRITER JUNE BRIGMAN–PENCILER
ROY RICHARDSON–INKER JOHN E. WORKMAN, JR.–LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER–COLORIST BOB HARRAS–EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

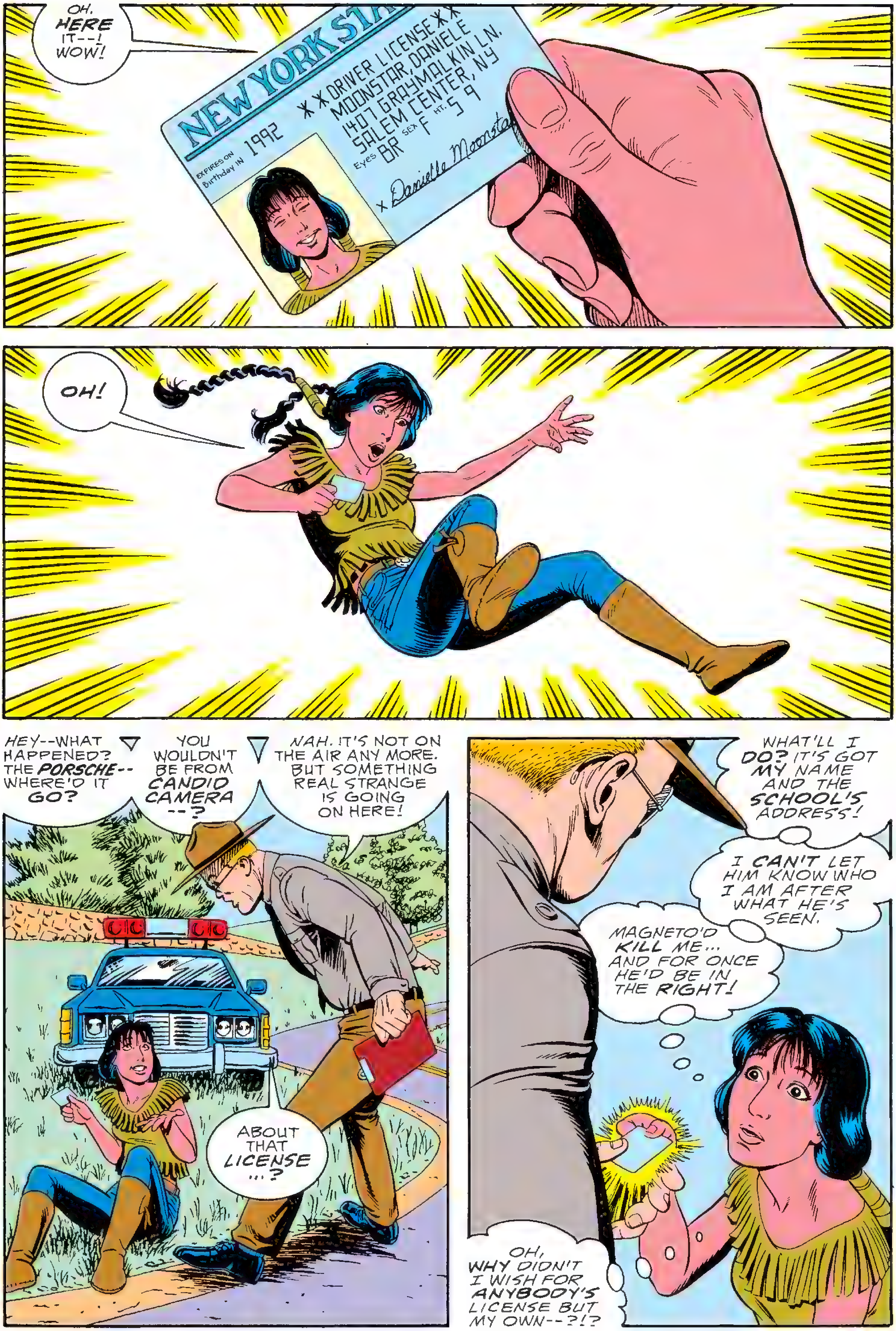

SEE, BEFORE, I COULD PULL IMAGES OUT OF PEOPLE'S HEADS OF WHAT THEY WANTED... OR FEARED MOST.
'COURSE I'D NEVER KNOW WHAT I'D GET, BUT IT USUALLY DIDN'T MATTER.
THEY WERE JUST... MIRAGES. THREE DIMENSIONAL HALLUCINATIONS.
NOW I CAN PULL OUT THE SAME STUFF... ONLY IT'S REAL. SOLID. LIKE THIS SPEAR. IT'S A LEFT-OVER SOLID-MIRAGE!
AND WHEN I MAKE ANOTHER MIRAGE, THIS SPEAR WILL DISAPPEAR!
DON'T BELIEVE ME, HUH? WANNA BE A GUINEA PIG?
AWRIGHT... WHAT WOULD BE SAFE? WHAT WOULD YOU WANT MOST?
WHO KNOWS? A SUGAR CUBE, PROBABLY. SHALL WE TRY?
YOUR WISH, BRIGHTWIND, IS MY...
...COMMAND...?

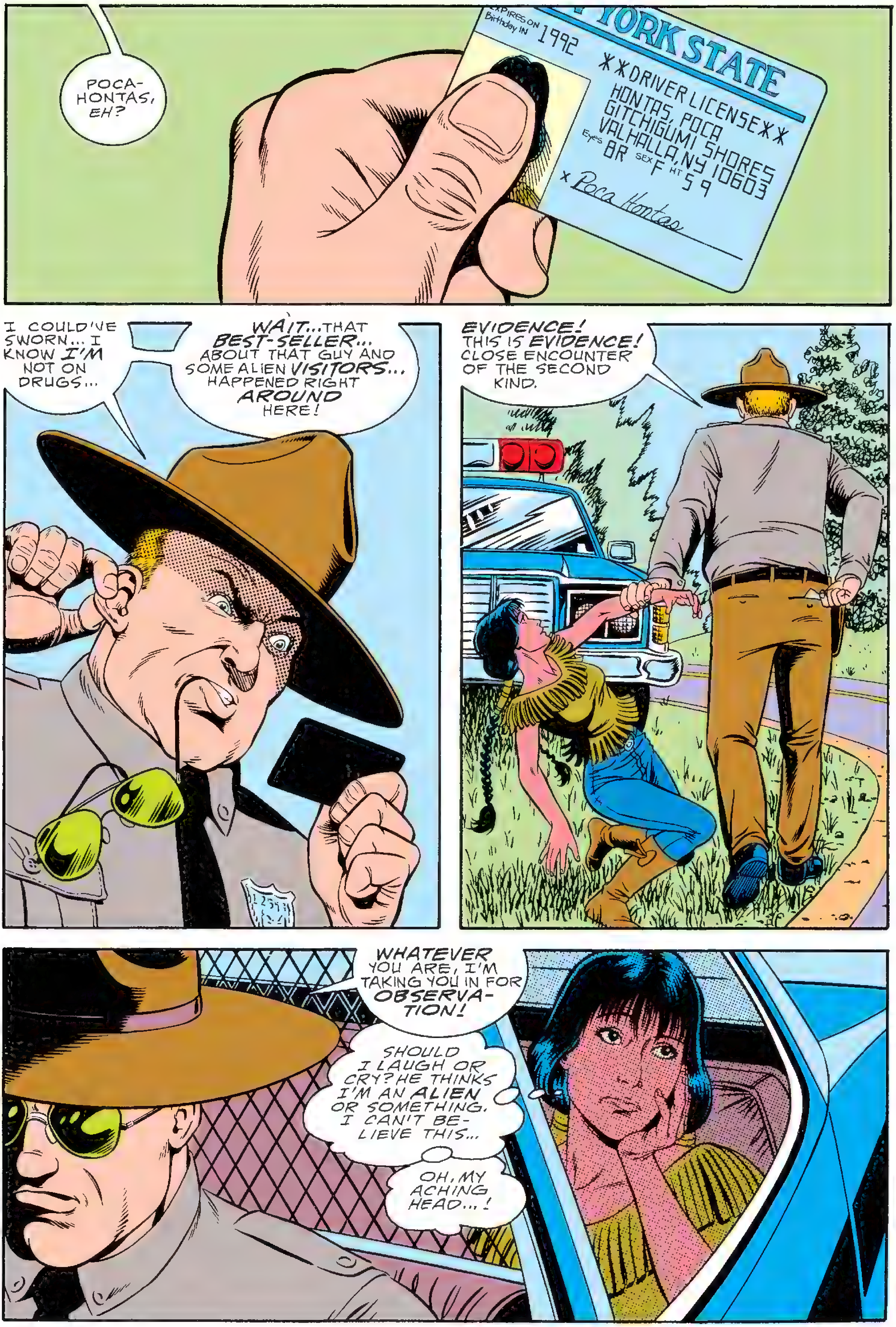

YEIII!
SPLASH
KLONK!
OW OW OW!
DARN! YOU SHARE **RAPPORT** WITH A GUY! YOU THINK YOU **KNOW** HIM...
...AND HE TAKES OFF AFTER THE FIRST FLYING FILLY HE SEES!

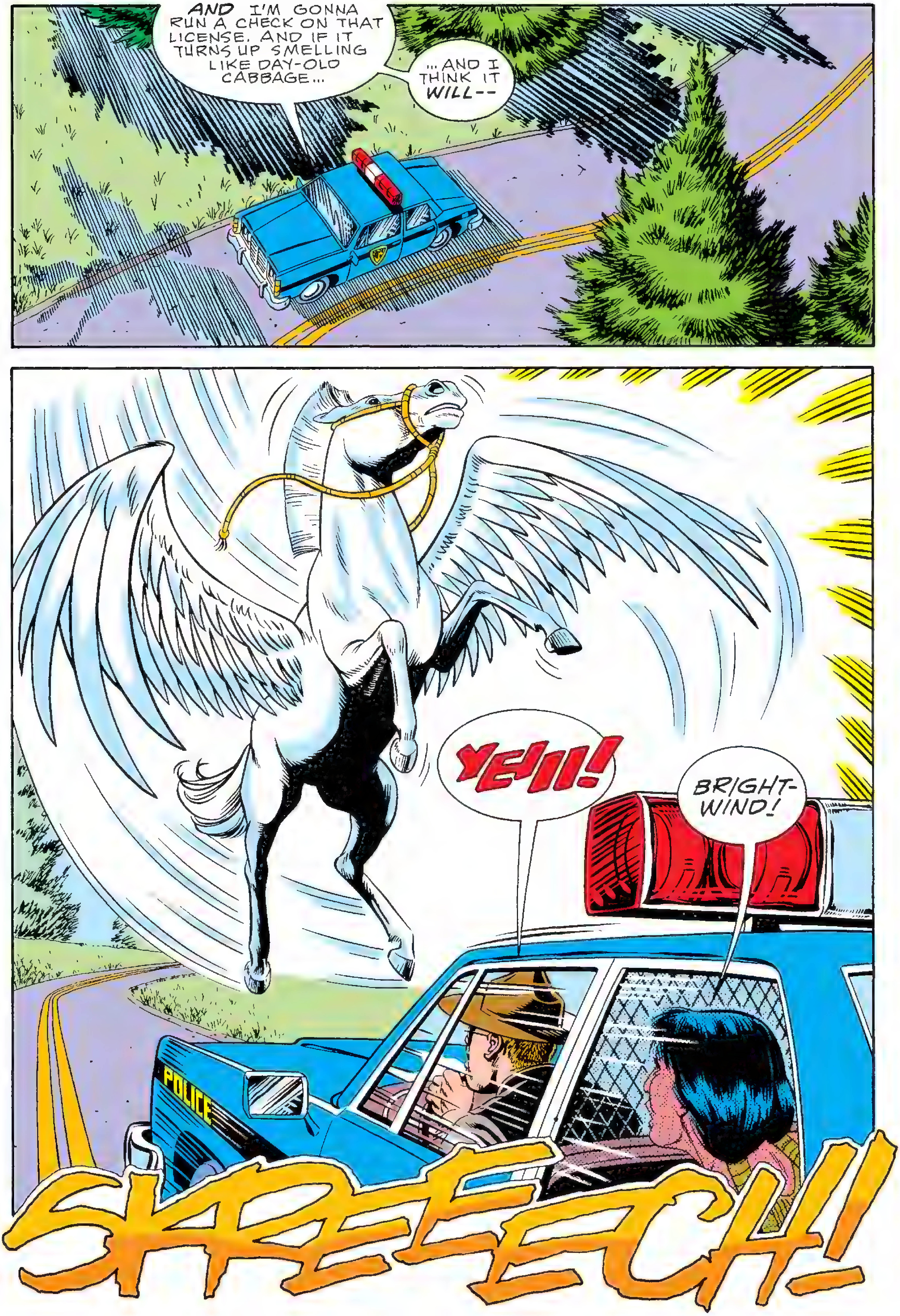

IT DOESN'T TAKE A SPECIAL RAPPORT WITH BRIGHTWIND TO TELL THAT I'M THE LEAST OF HIS INTERESTS RIGHT NOW!
HE'S CHASING HIS DREAM-COME-TRUE.
OUCH! MY ANKLE! DARN! DARN! DARN!
DIZZY! BETTER SIT DOWN! I'M MILES FROM HOME, SOAKING WET... WITH A CONCUSSION, PROBABLY, AND A SPRAINED ANKLE!
MAGNETO'LL BE HOME ANY MINUTE. I SURE WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY TO GET THERE... FAST!
A LITTLE RED SPORTS CAR SURE WOULD BE...
...NIIIICE...!
OH... WOW...! I FORGOT I COULD DO THAT!

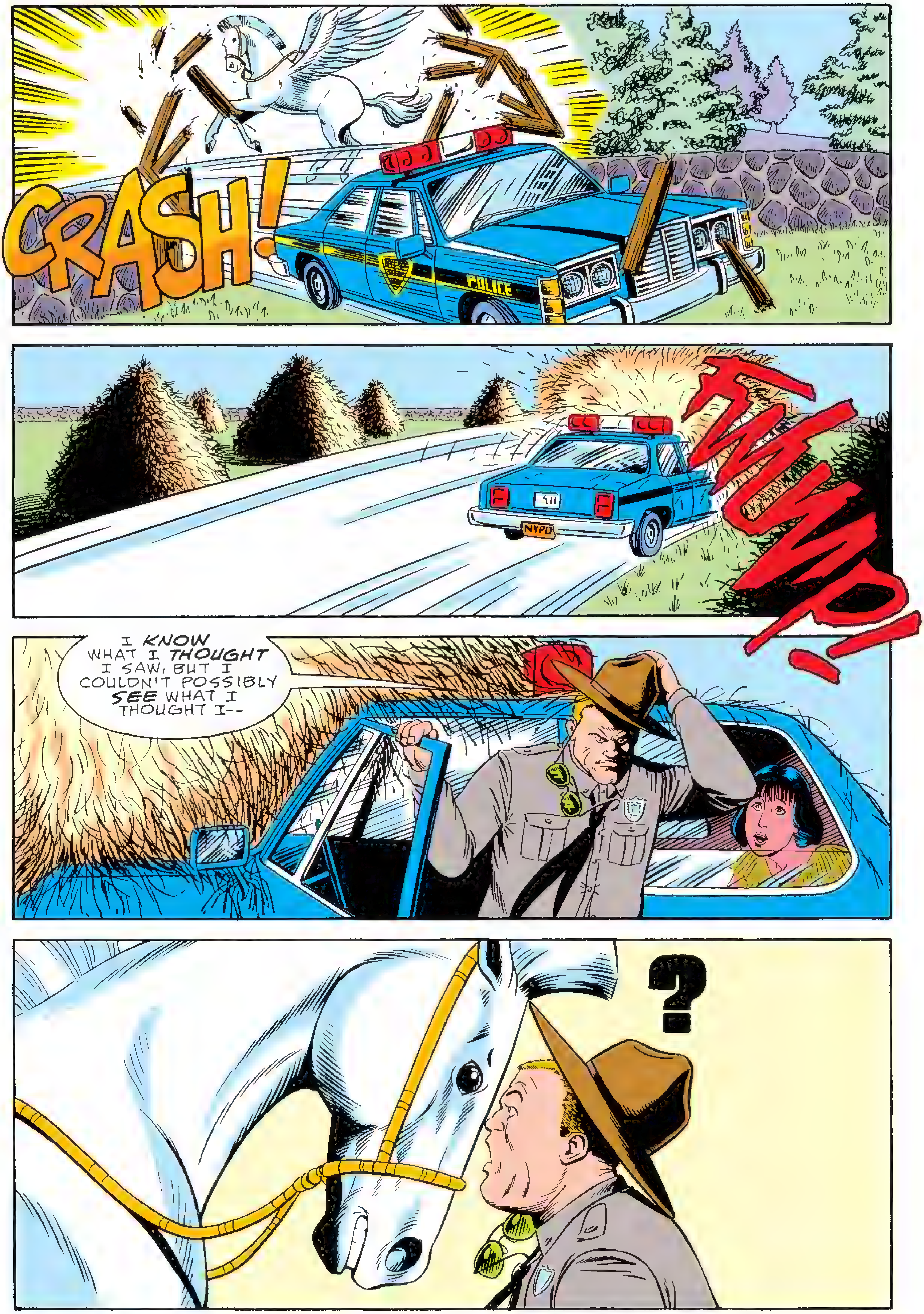

I'M SURE GLAD I LEARNED TO DRIVE A STICK!
I WONDER HOW BRIGHT-WIND REACTED WHEN HIS MARE DISAPPEARED. HUMPH! SERVES HIM RIGHT!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A COMPLETE WISH! A PORSCHE --WITH KEYS IN THE IGNITION AND A TANK FULL OF GAS.
STILL A LITTLE WOOZY! I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE DRIVING, BUT I'LL TAKE THE BACK ROADS...
THERE'S NEVER MUCH TRAFFIC... AND IT'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH IF I'M CAREFUL. AND I'LL BE HOME SOON.
BEFORE MAGNETO GETS BACK.
THERE'S NO POINT IN LOOKING A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH.
IF WISHES WERE SPORTS CARS, BEGGARS WOULD RIDE...
THAT'S TERRIBLE. I MUST HAVE BUMPED MY HEAD HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!
WEEOOOEEEOOO
THE POLICE! OH, NO! WAS I SPEEDING? NO. THEN WHY'S HE CHASING ME?

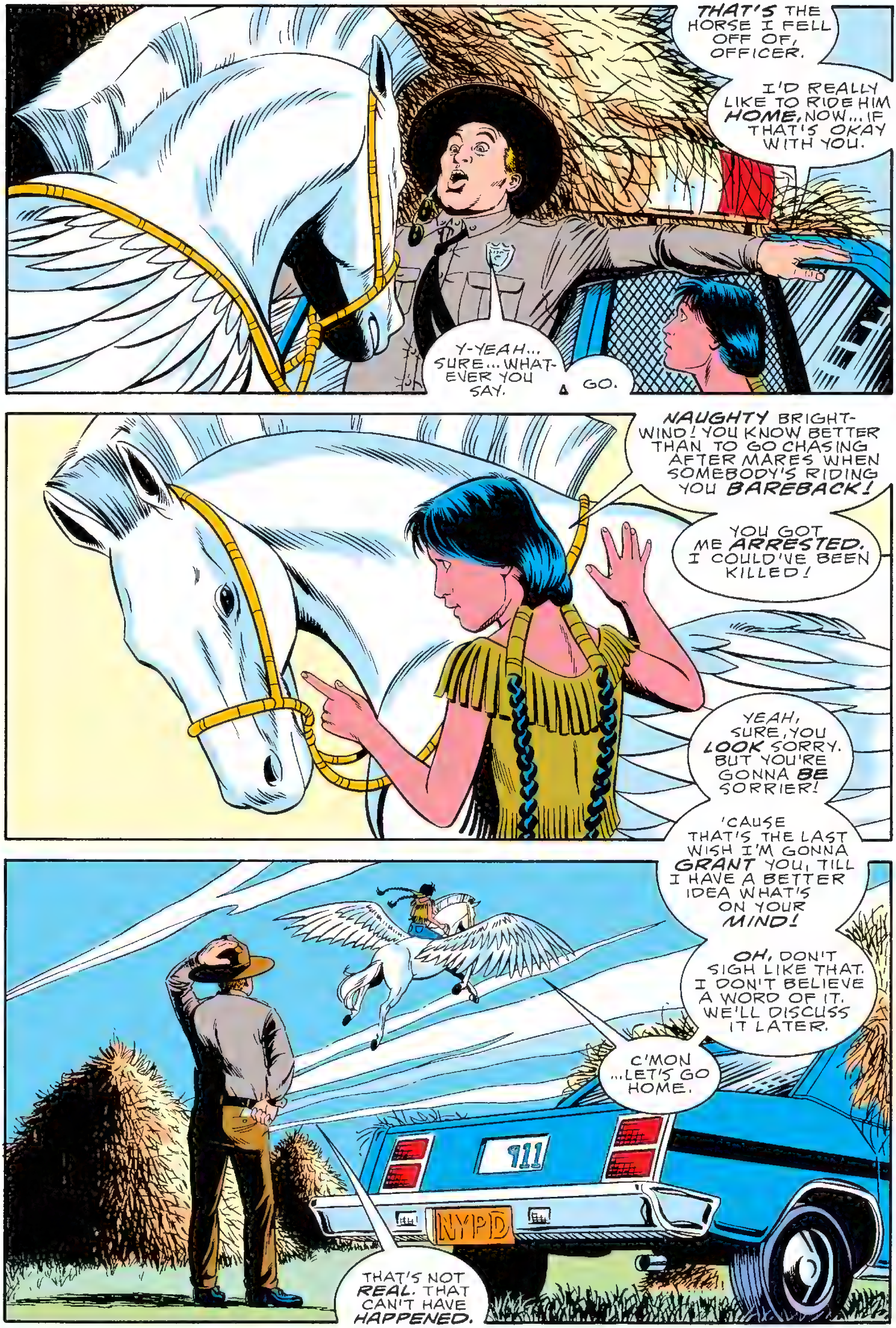

SO, YOUNG LADY, WHAT BRINGS YOU WOBBLING DOWN OUR LITTLE COUNTRY LANE?
LOOK, OFFICER, I DON'T DO DRUGS... OR DRINK. MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE WOBBLY, BUT I WAS GOING SLOW AND...
...SEE, I WAS RIDING MY HORSE AND HE THREW ME INTO COOPER'S LAKE AND I CREAMED MY HEAD ON A ROCK AND SPRAINED MY ANKLE AND...
...AND THERE WAS THIS CAR...!
turbo
MIRAGE
MIRAGE, HUMMMMM? INVALID CAR LICENSE. YOU STEAL IT?
OF COURSE NOT!
THEN I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE THE REGISTRATION ON THIS RED-HOT LITTLE ITEM...?
UH...
DRUG-CRAZED, HOPPED-UP RICH FOLK BRATS... DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS COUNTRY'S COMING TO.
LET ME SEE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, MISS.
DRIVER'S LICENSE ...?
BUT... I DON'T HAVE IT! I DIDN'T BRING IT. I... I DIDN'T EXPECT TO NEED--

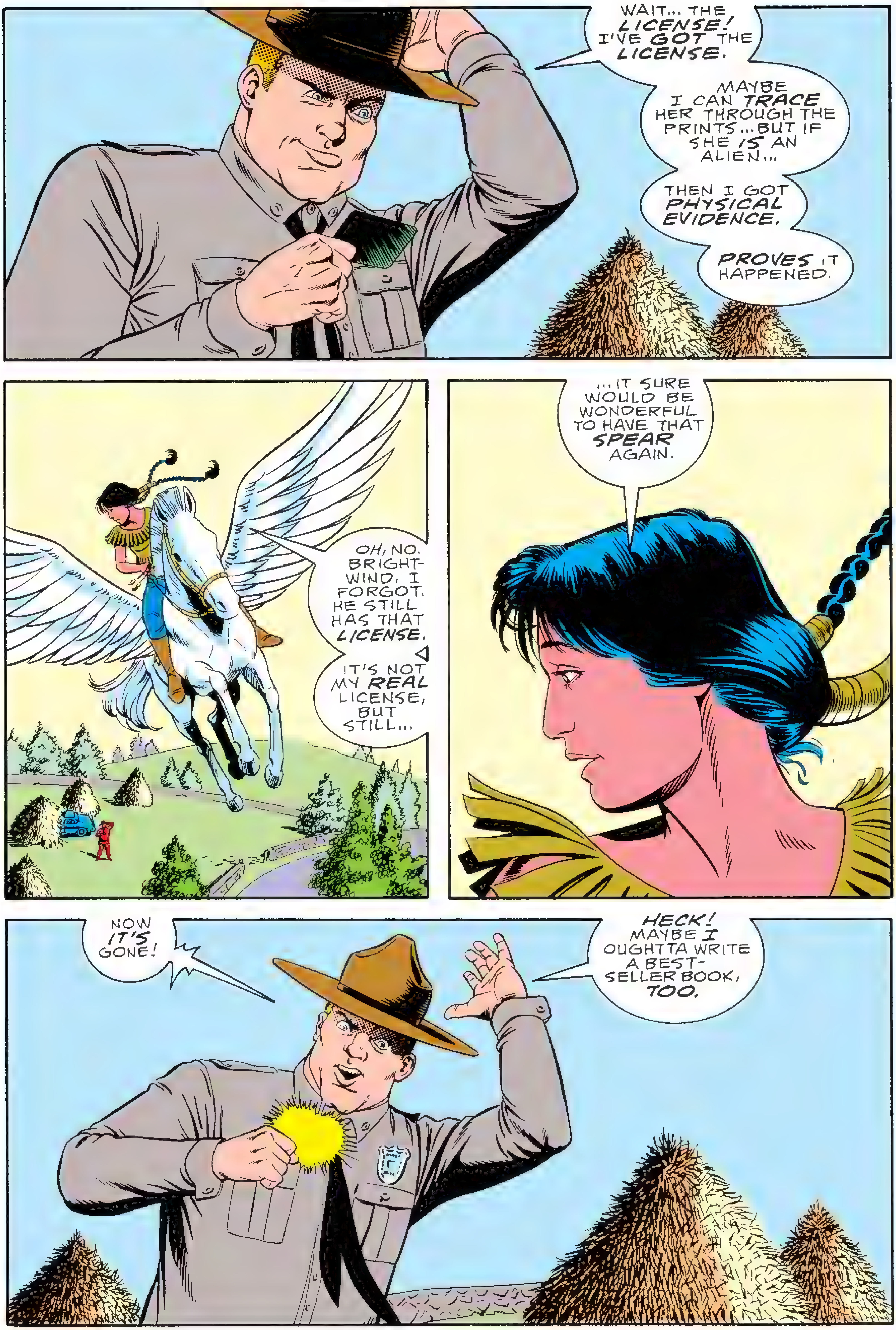

OH. **HERE** IT--! WOW!
NEW YORK STA
✱✱DRIVER LICENSE✱✱
MOONSTAR, DANIELE
1407 GRAYMALKIN LN.
SALEM CENTER, NY
EXPIRES ON Birthday IN 1992
Eyes BR SEX F HT. 5 9
x Danielle Moonsta
OH!
HEY--WHAT HAPPENED? THE **PORSCHE**-- WHERE'D IT **GO?**
YOU WOULDN'T BE FROM **CANDID CAMERA**--?
NAH. IT'S NOT ON THE AIR ANY MORE. BUT SOMETHING REAL STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE!
ABOUT THAT **LICENSE**...?
WHAT'LL I **DO?** IT'S GOT **MY** NAME AND THE **SCHOOL'S** ADDRESS!
I **CAN'T** LET HIM KNOW WHO I AM AFTER WHAT HE'S SEEN.
MAGNETO'D **KILL** ME... AND FOR ONCE HE'D BE IN THE **RIGHT!**
OH, **WHY** DIDN'T I WISH FOR **ANYBODY'S** LICENSE BUT MY OWN--?!?

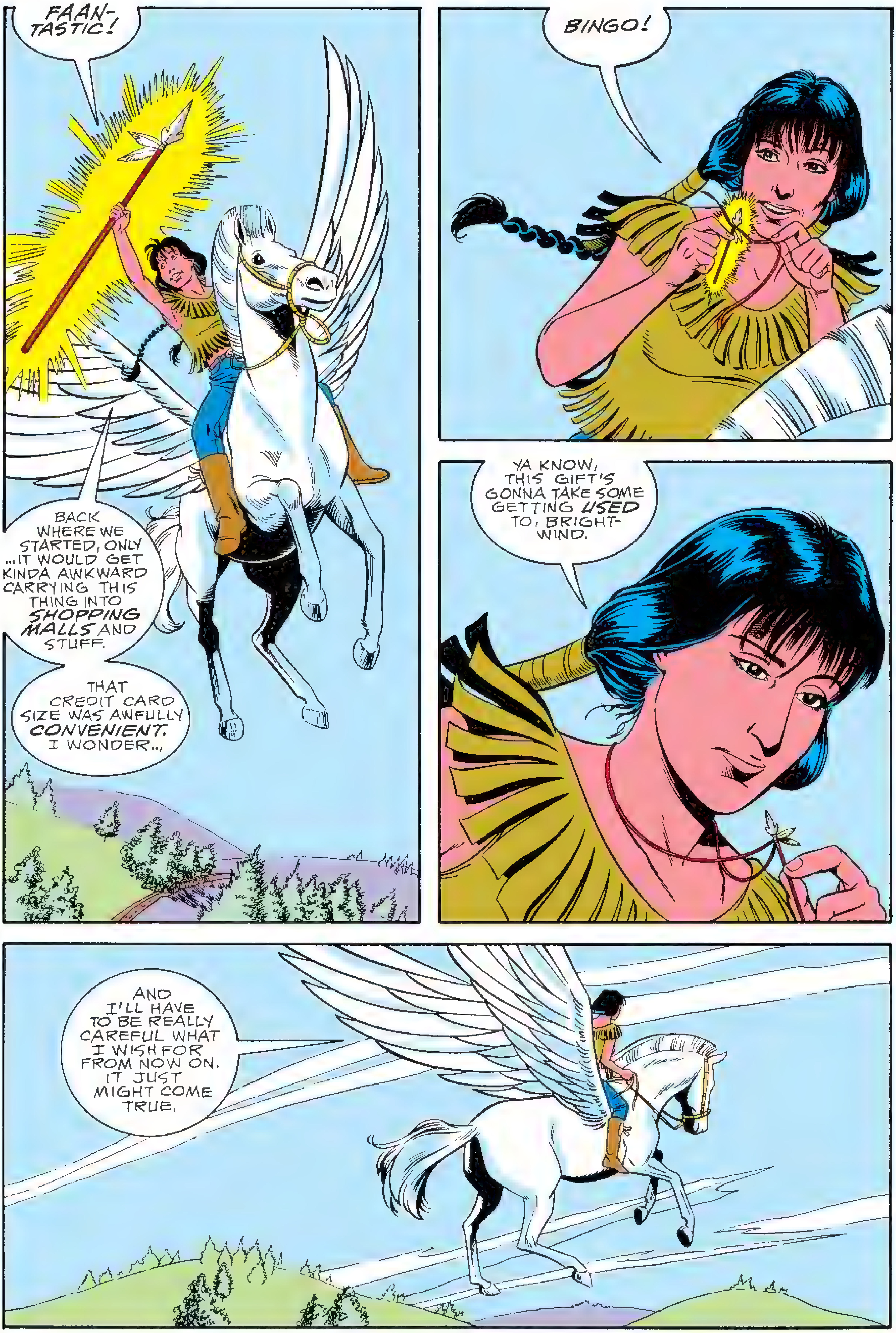

POCA-HONTAS, EH?
XPIRES ON Birthday IN 1992
YORK STATE
DRIVER LICENSE
HONTAS, POCA
GITCHIGUMI SHORES
VALHALLA, NY 10603
Eyes BR SEX F HT 5 9
x Poca Hontas
I COULD'VE SWORN... I KNOW *I'M* NOT ON DRUGS...
WAIT...THAT *BEST-SELLER*... ABOUT THAT GUY AND SOME ALIEN *VISITORS*... HAPPENED RIGHT *AROUND* HERE!
EVIDENCE! THIS IS *EVIDENCE!* CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE SECOND KIND.
WHATEVER YOU ARE, I'M TAKING YOU IN FOR *OBSERVATION!*
SHOULD I LAUGH OR CRY? HE THINKS I'M AN *ALIEN* OR SOMETHING. I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
OH, MY ACHING HEAD...!

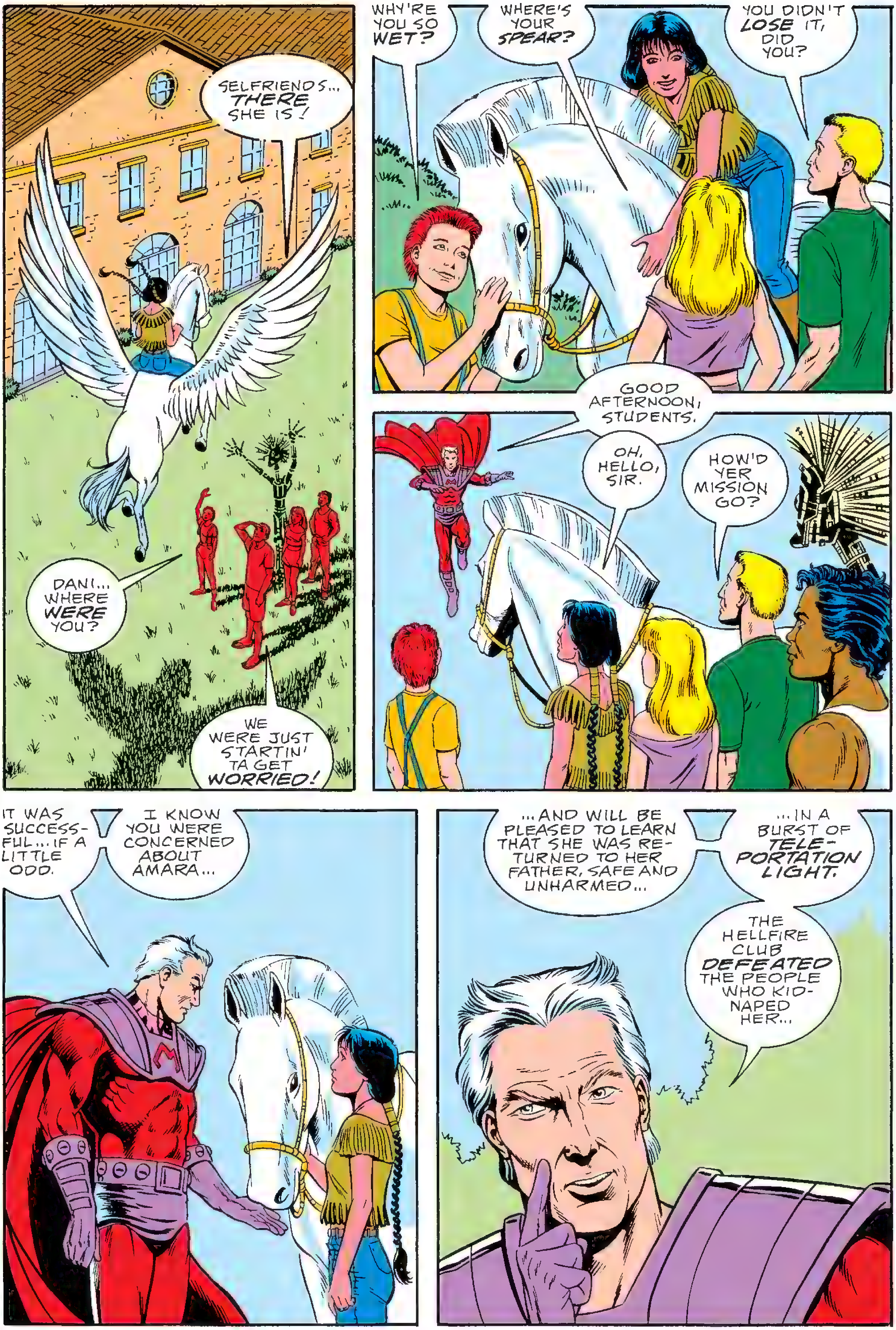

AND I'M GONNA RUN A CHECK ON THAT LICENSE. AND IF IT TURNS UP SMELLING LIKE DAY-OLD CABBAGE...
...AND I THINK IT WILL--
YEIII!
BRIGHT-WIND!
POLICE
SKREEECH!

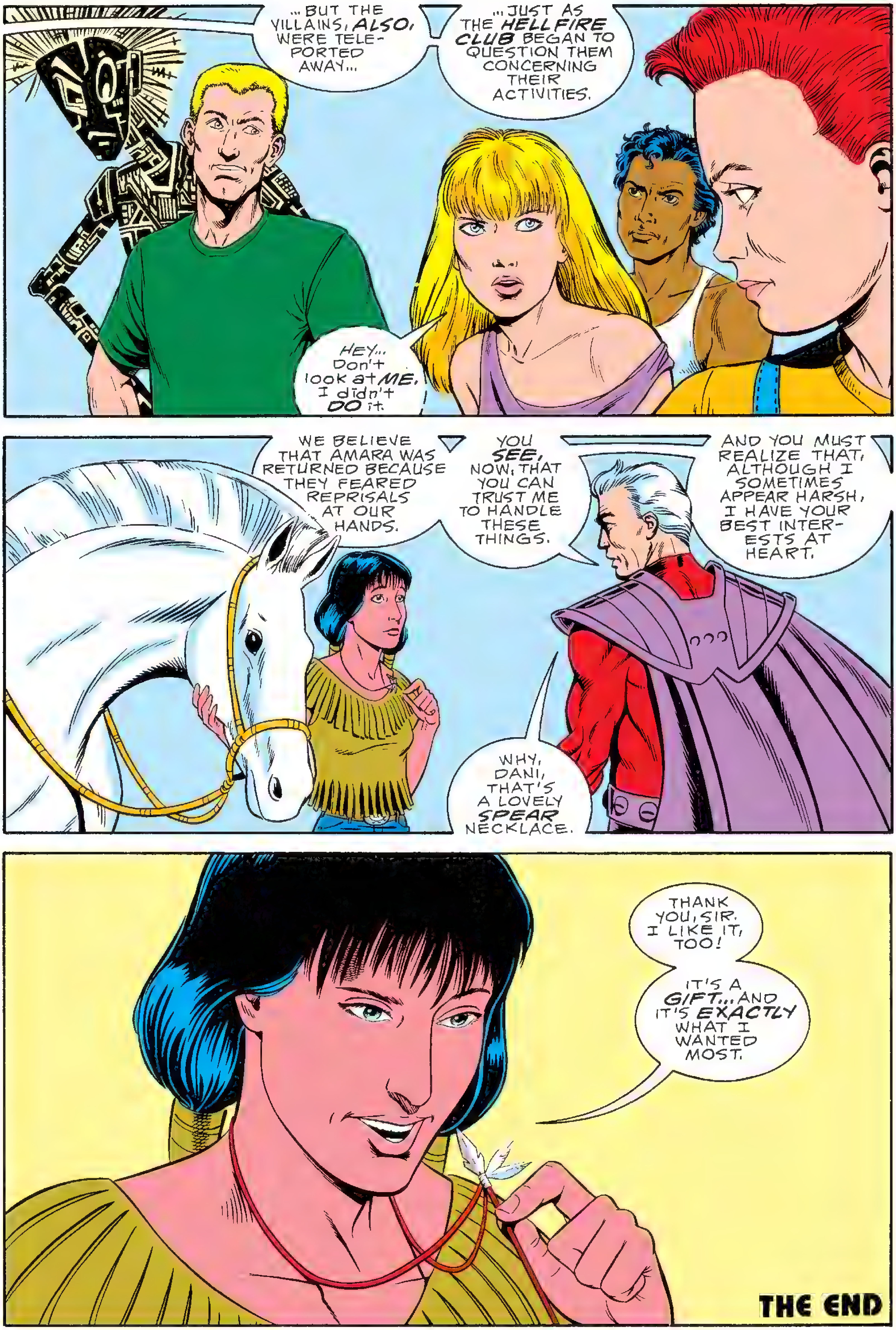

CRASH!
POLICE
911
NYPD
THWUMP!
I *KNOW* WHAT I *THOUGHT* I SAW, BUT I COULDN'T POSSIBLY *SEE* WHAT I THOUGHT I--
?

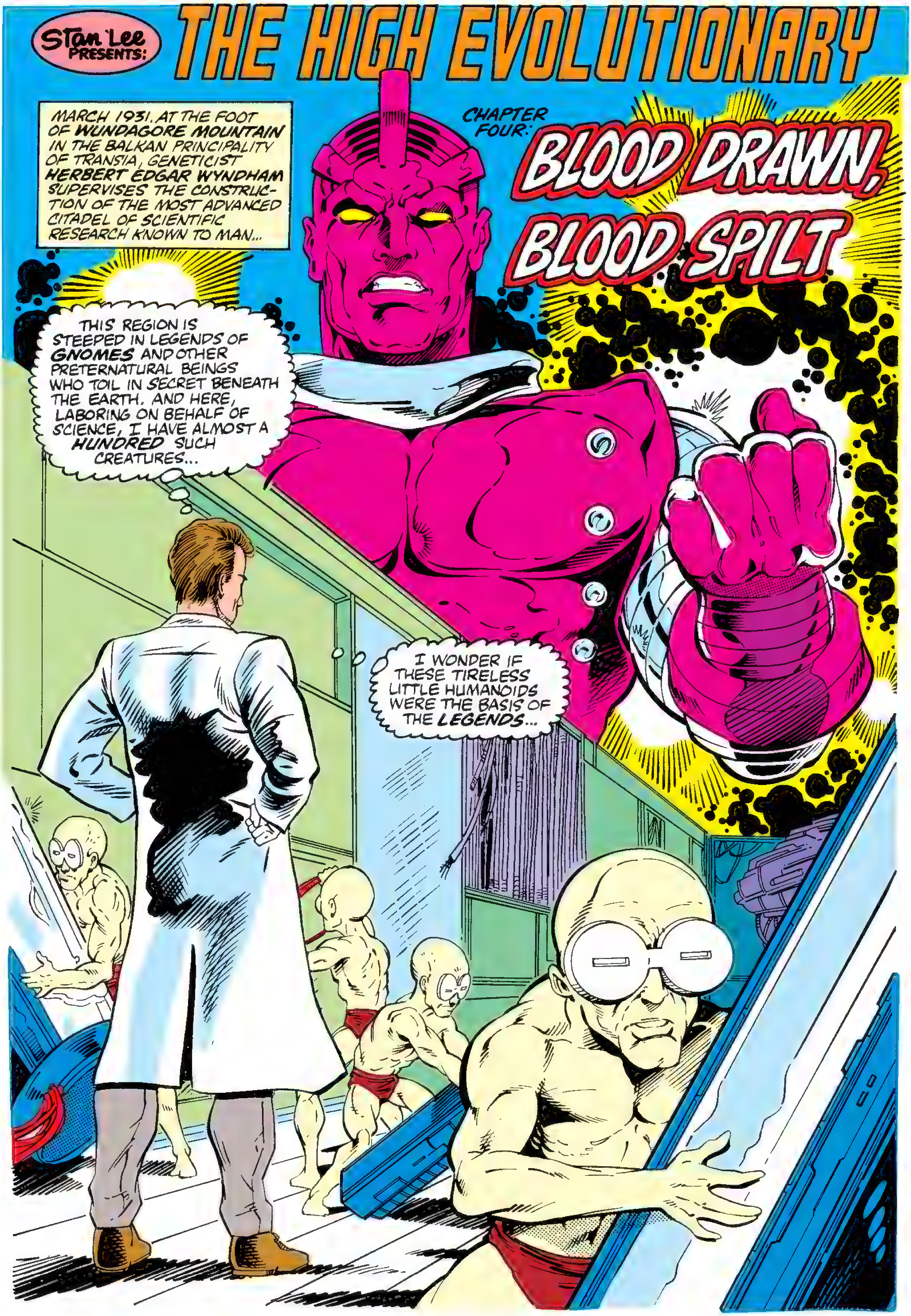

THAT'S THE HORSE I FELL OFF OF, OFFICER.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO RIDE HIM HOME, NOW... IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
Y-YEAH... SURE... WHATEVER YOU SAY.
GO.
NAUGHTY BRIGHTWIND! YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO GO CHASING AFTER MARES WHEN SOMEBODY'S RIDING YOU BAREBACK!
YOU GOT ME ARRESTED. I COULD'VE BEEN KILLED!
YEAH, SURE, YOU LOOK SORRY. BUT YOU'RE GONNA BE SORRIER!
'CAUSE THAT'S THE LAST WISH I'M GONNA GRANT YOU, TILL I HAVE A BETTER IDEA WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!
OH, DON'T SIGH LIKE THAT. I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF IT. WE'LL DISCUSS IT LATER.
C'MON ...LET'S GO HOME.
911
NYPD
THAT'S NOT REAL. THAT CAN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

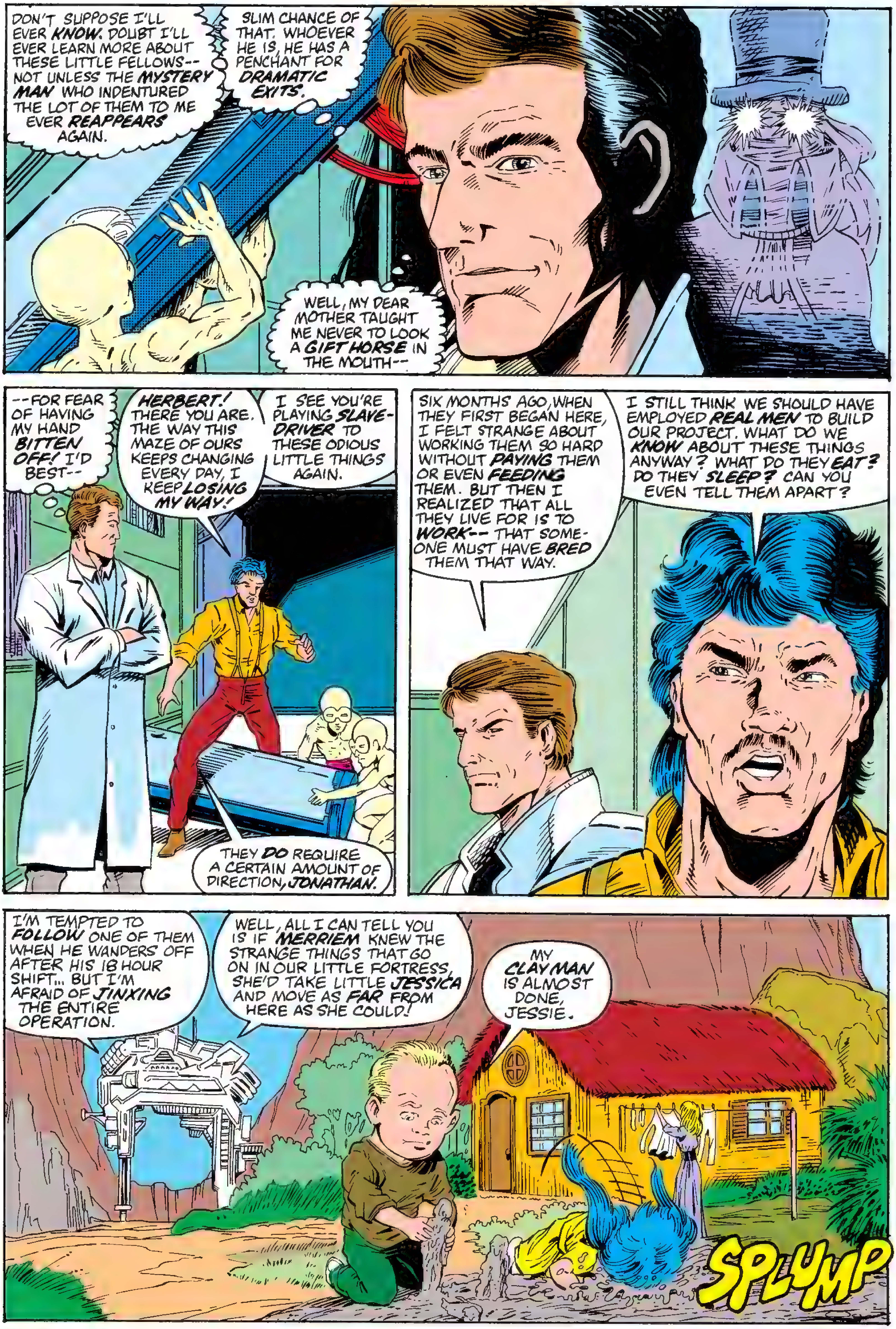

WAIT... THE *LICENSE!* I'VE *GOT* THE *LICENSE.*
MAYBE I CAN *TRACE* HER THROUGH THE PRINTS...BUT IF SHE *IS* AN ALIEN...
THEN I GOT *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.*
PROVES IT HAPPENED.
OH, NO. BRIGHTWIND, I FORGOT. HE STILL HAS THAT *LICENSE.*
IT'S NOT MY *REAL* LICENSE, BUT STILL...
...IT SURE WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO HAVE THAT *SPEAR* AGAIN.
NOW *IT'S* GONE!
HECK! MAYBE *I* OUGHTTA WRITE A BEST-SELLER BOOK, *TOO.*

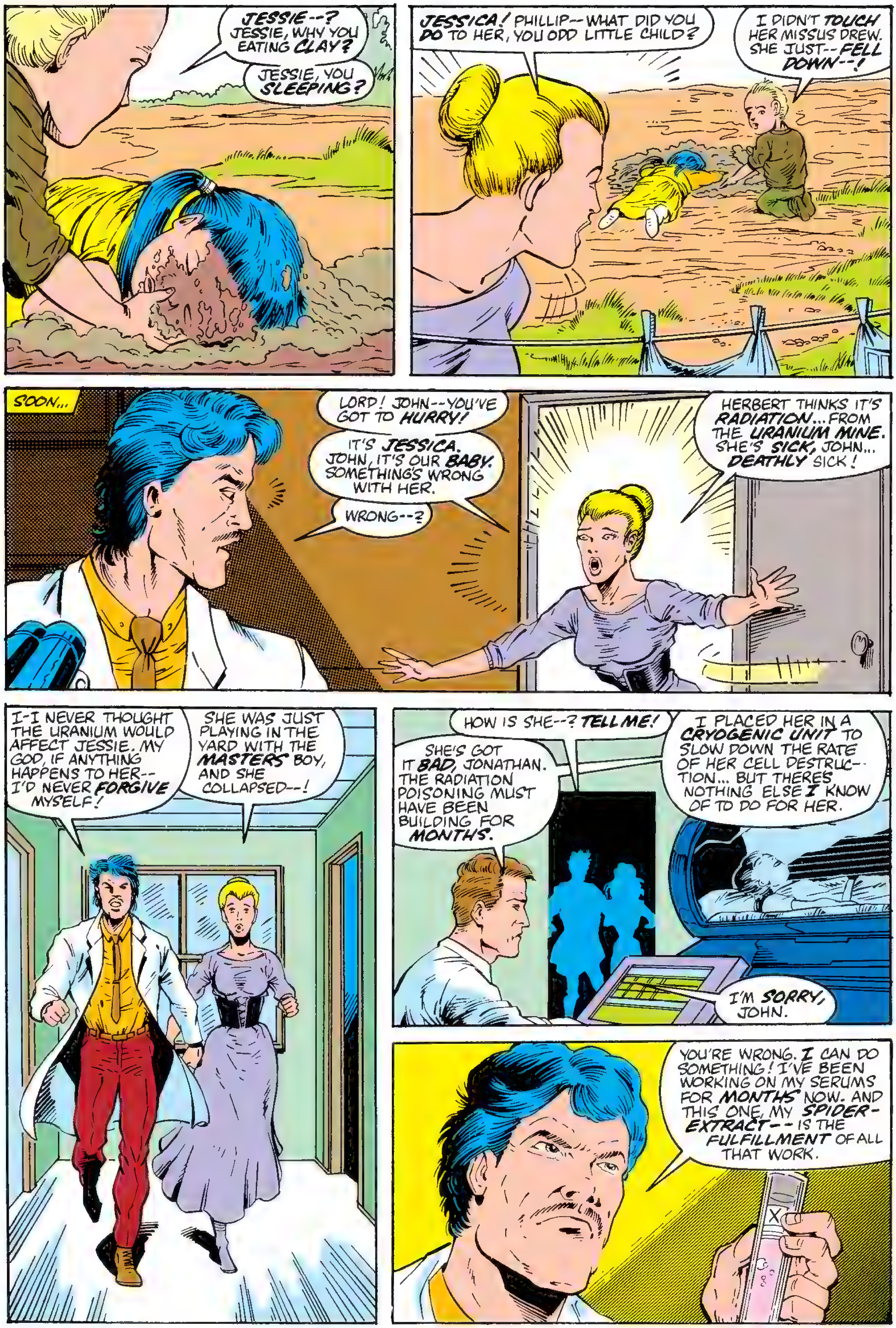

FAAN-TASTIC!
BACK WHERE WE STARTED, ONLY ...IT WOULD GET KINDA AWKWARD CARRYING THIS THING INTO *SHOPPING MALLS* AND STUFF.
THAT CREDIT CARD SIZE WAS AWFULLY *CONVENIENT.* I WONDER...,
BINGO!
YA KNOW, THIS GIFT'S GONNA TAKE SOME GETTING *USED* TO, BRIGHT-WIND.
AND I'LL HAVE TO BE REALLY CAREFUL WHAT I WISH FOR FROM NOW ON. IT JUST MIGHT COME TRUE.

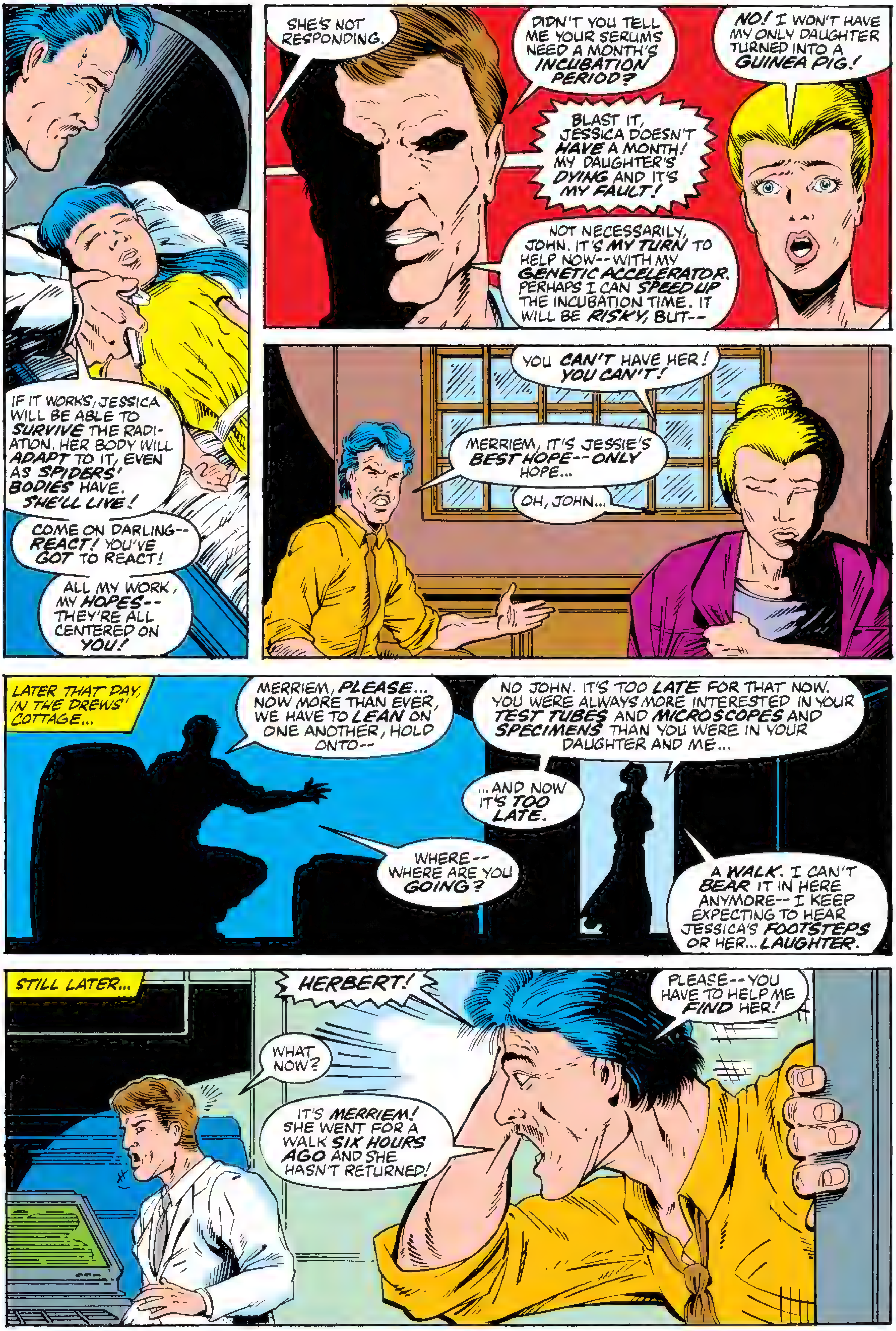

SELFRIENDS... **THERE** SHE IS!
DANI... WHERE **WERE** YOU?
WE WERE JUST STARTIN' TA GET **WORRIED!**
WHY'RE YOU SO **WET?**
WHERE'S YOUR **SPEAR?**
YOU DIDN'T **LOSE** IT, DID YOU?
GOOD AFTERNOON, STUDENTS.
OH, HELLO, SIR.
HOW'D YER MISSION GO?
IT WAS SUCCESSFUL... IF A LITTLE ODD.
I KNOW YOU WERE CONCERNED ABOUT AMARA...
...AND WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT SHE WAS RETURNED TO HER FATHER, SAFE AND UNHARMED...
...IN A BURST OF **TELEPORTATION LIGHT.**
THE HELLFIRE CLUB **DEFEATED** THE PEOPLE WHO KIDNAPED HER...

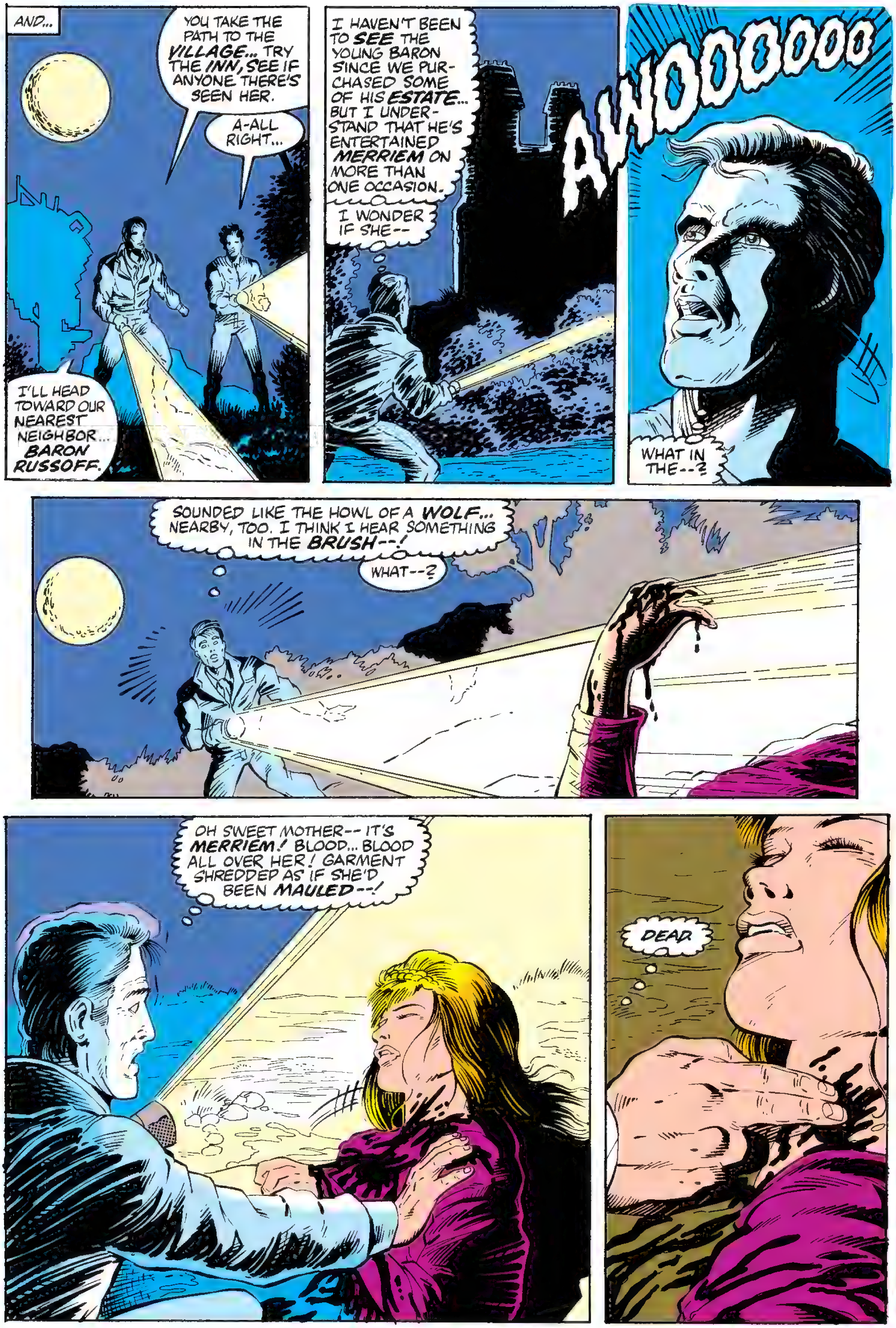

...BUT THE VILLAINS, ALSO, WERE TELEPORTED AWAY...
...JUST AS THE HELLFIRE CLUB BEGAN TO QUESTION THEM CONCERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES.
HEY... Don't look at ME. I didn't DO it.
WE BELIEVE THAT AMARA WAS RETURNED BECAUSE THEY FEARED REPRISALS AT OUR HANDS.
YOU SEE, NOW, THAT YOU CAN TRUST ME TO HANDLE THESE THINGS.
AND YOU MUST REALIZE THAT, ALTHOUGH I SOMETIMES APPEAR HARSH, I HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART.
WHY, DANI, THAT'S A LOVELY SPEAR NECKLACE.
THANK YOU, SIR. I LIKE IT, TOO!
IT'S A GIFT... AND IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED MOST.
THE END

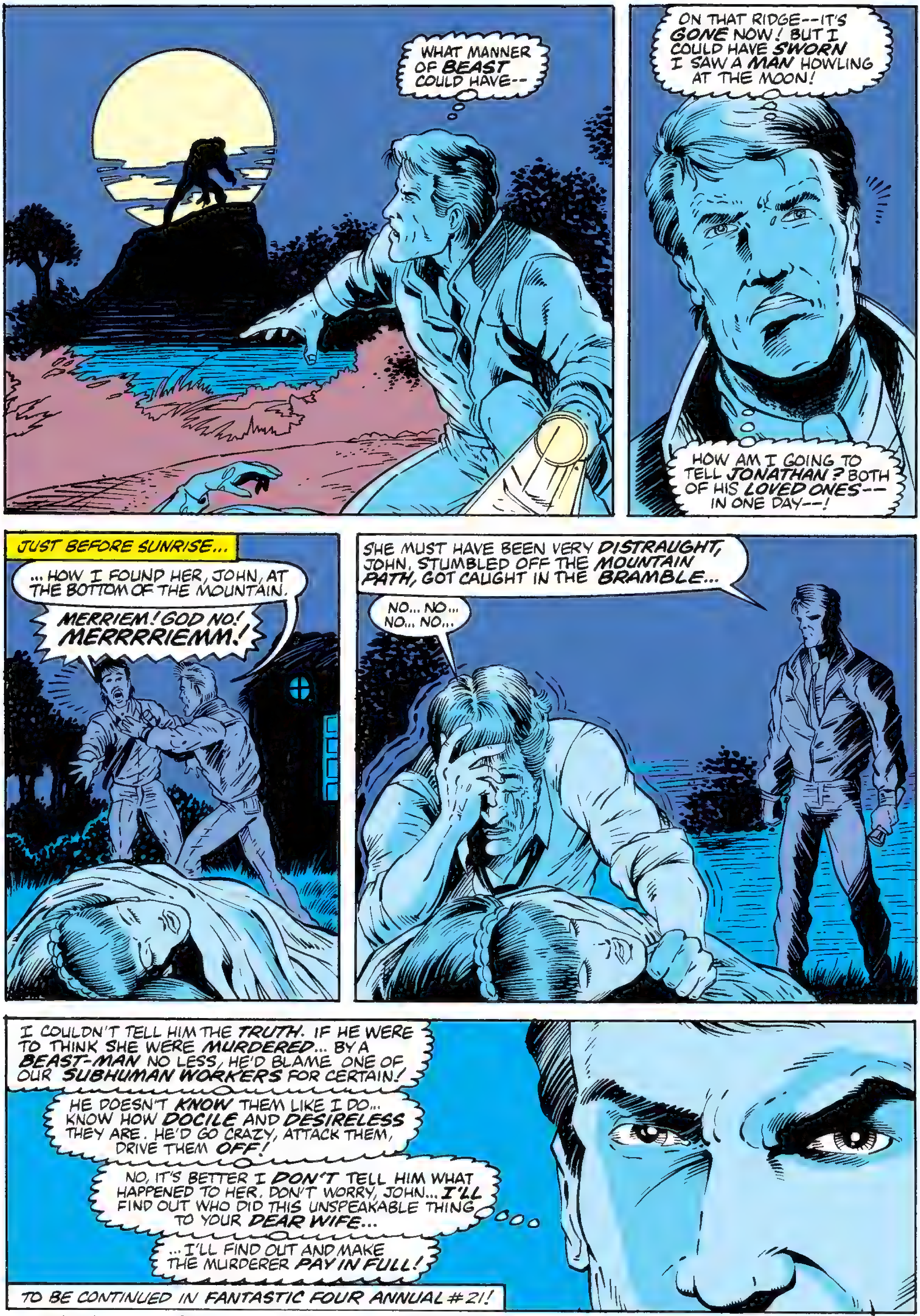

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY
CHAPTER FOUR: BLOOD DRAWN, BLOOD SPILT
MARCH 1931. AT THE FOOT OF WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN IN THE BALKAN PRINCIPALITY OF TRANSIA, GENETICIST HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM SUPERVISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOST ADVANCED CITADEL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH KNOWN TO MAN...
THIS REGION IS STEEPED IN LEGENDS OF GNOMES AND OTHER PRETERNATURAL BEINGS WHO TOIL IN SECRET BENEATH THE EARTH. AND HERE, LABORING ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE, I HAVE ALMOST A HUNDRED SUCH CREATURES...
I WONDER IF THESE TIRELESS LITTLE HUMANOIDS WERE THE BASIS OF THE LEGENDS...


DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL EVER KNOW. DOUBT I'LL EVER LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE LITTLE FELLOWS-- NOT UNLESS THE MYSTERY MAN WHO INDENTURED THE LOT OF THEM TO ME EVER REAPPEARS AGAIN.
SLIM CHANCE OF THAT. WHOEVER HE IS, HE HAS A PENCHANT FOR DRAMATIC EXITS.
WELL, MY DEAR MOTHER TAUGHT ME NEVER TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH--
--FOR FEAR OF HAVING MY HAND BITTEN OFF! I'D BEST--
HERBERT! THERE YOU ARE. THE WAY THIS MAZE OF OURS KEEPS CHANGING EVERY DAY, I KEEP LOSING MY WAY!
I SEE YOU'RE PLAYING SLAVE-DRIVER TO THESE ODIOUS LITTLE THINGS AGAIN.
THEY DO REQUIRE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DIRECTION, JONATHAN.
SIX MONTHS AGO, WHEN THEY FIRST BEGAN HERE, I FELT STRANGE ABOUT WORKING THEM SO HARD WITHOUT PAYING THEM OR EVEN FEEDING THEM. BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT ALL THEY LIVE FOR IS TO WORK-- THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE BRED THEM THAT WAY.
I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE EMPLOYED REAL MEN TO BUILD OUR PROJECT. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS ANYWAY? WHAT DO THEY EAT? DO THEY SLEEP? CAN YOU EVEN TELL THEM APART?
I'M TEMPTED TO FOLLOW ONE OF THEM WHEN HE WANDERS OFF AFTER HIS 18 HOUR SHIFT... BUT I'M AFRAID OF JINXING THE ENTIRE OPERATION.
WELL, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS IF MERRIEM KNEW THE STRANGE THINGS THAT GO ON IN OUR LITTLE FORTRESS, SHE'D TAKE LITTLE JESSICA AND MOVE AS FAR FROM HERE AS SHE COULD!
MY CLAYMAN IS ALMOST DONE, JESSIE.
SPLUMP


JESSIE--? JESSIE, WHY YOU EATING CLAY?
JESSIE, YOU SLEEPING?
JESSICA! PHILLIP--WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, YOU ODD LITTLE CHILD?
I DIDN'T TOUCH HER MISSUS DREW. SHE JUST--FELL DOWN--!
SOON...
LORD! JOHN--YOU'VE GOT TO HURRY!
IT'S JESSICA. JOHN, IT'S OUR BABY. SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER.
WRONG--?
HERBERT THINKS IT'S RADIATION... FROM THE URANIUM MINE. SHE'S SICK, JOHN... DEATHLY SICK!
I-I NEVER THOUGHT THE URANIUM WOULD AFFECT JESSIE. MY GOD, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER-- I'D NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
SHE WAS JUST PLAYING IN THE YARD WITH THE MASTERS BOY, AND SHE COLLAPSED--!
HOW IS SHE--? TELL ME!
SHE'S GOT IT BAD, JONATHAN. THE RADIATION POISONING MUST HAVE BEEN BUILDING FOR MONTHS.
I PLACED HER IN A CRYOGENIC UNIT TO SLOW DOWN THE RATE OF HER CELL DESTRUCTION... BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I KNOW OF TO DO FOR HER.
I'M SORRY, JOHN.
YOU'RE WRONG. I CAN DO SOMETHING! I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY SERUMS FOR MONTHS NOW. AND THIS ONE, MY SPIDER-EXTRACT--IS THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THAT WORK.
X


SHE'S NOT RESPONDING.
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOUR SERUMS NEED A MONTH'S INCUBATION PERIOD?
BLAST IT, JESSICA DOESN'T HAVE A MONTH! MY DAUGHTER'S DYING AND IT'S MY FAULT!
NOT NECESSARILY, JOHN. IT'S MY TURN TO HELP NOW--WITH MY GENETIC ACCELERATOR. PERHAPS I CAN SPEED UP THE INCUBATION TIME. IT WILL BE RISKY, BUT--
NO! I WON'T HAVE MY ONLY DAUGHTER TURNED INTO A GUINEA PIG!
IF IT WORKS, JESSICA WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE RADIATION. HER BODY WILL ADAPT TO IT, EVEN AS SPIDERS' BODIES HAVE. SHE'LL LIVE!
COME ON DARLING--REACT! YOU'VE GOT TO REACT!
ALL MY WORK, MY HOPES--THEY'RE ALL CENTERED ON YOU!
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER! YOU CAN'T!
MERRIEM, IT'S JESSIE'S BEST HOPE--ONLY HOPE...
OH, JOHN...
LATER THAT DAY, IN THE DREWS' COTTAGE...
MERRIEM, PLEASE... NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE TO LEAN ON ONE ANOTHER, HOLD ONTO--
NO JOHN. IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW. YOU WERE ALWAYS MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR TEST TUBES AND MICROSCOPES AND SPECIMENS THAN YOU WERE IN YOUR DAUGHTER AND ME...
...AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE.
WHERE--WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A WALK. I CAN'T BEAR IT IN HERE ANYMORE--I KEEP EXPECTING TO HEAR JESSICA'S FOOTSTEPS OR HER...LAUGHTER.
STILL LATER...
HERBERT!
PLEASE--YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND HER!
WHAT NOW?
IT'S MERRIEM! SHE WENT FOR A WALK SIX HOURS AGO AND SHE HASN'T RETURNED!


AND...
YOU TAKE THE PATH TO THE **VILLAGE**... TRY THE **INN**, SEE IF ANYONE THERE'S SEEN HER.
A-ALL RIGHT...
I'LL HEAD TOWARD OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR... **BARON RUSSOFF.**
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO **SEE** THE YOUNG BARON SINCE WE PURCHASED SOME OF HIS **ESTATE**... BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S ENTERTAINED **MERRIEM** ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION.
I WONDER IF SHE--
AWOOOOOO
WHAT IN THE--?
SOUNDED LIKE THE HOWL OF A **WOLF**... NEARBY, TOO. I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING IN THE **BRUSH**--!
WHAT--?
OH SWEET MOTHER-- IT'S **MERRIEM!** BLOOD... BLOOD ALL OVER HER! GARMENT SHREDDED AS IF SHE'D BEEN **MAULED**--!
DEAD.


WHAT MANNER OF BEAST COULD HAVE--
ON THAT RIDGE--IT'S GONE NOW! BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW A MAN HOWLING AT THE MOON!
HOW AM I GOING TO TELL JONATHAN? BOTH OF HIS LOVED ONES-- IN ONE DAY--!
JUST BEFORE SUNRISE...
...HOW I FOUND HER, JOHN, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MOUNTAIN.
MERRIEM! GOD NO! MERRRRIEMM!
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY DISTRAUGHT, JOHN, STUMBLED OFF THE MOUNTAIN PATH, GOT CAUGHT IN THE BRAMBLE...
NO... NO... NO... NO...
I COULDN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH. IF HE WERE TO THINK SHE WERE MURDERED... BY A BEAST-MAN NO LESS, HE'D BLAME ONE OF OUR SUBHUMAN WORKERS FOR CERTAIN!
HE DOESN'T KNOW THEM LIKE I DO... KNOW HOW DOCILE AND DESIRELESS THEY ARE. HE'D GO CRAZY, ATTACK THEM, DRIVE THEM OFF!
NO, IT'S BETTER I DON'T TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED TO HER. DON'T WORRY, JOHN... I'LL FIND OUT WHO DID THIS UNSPEAKABLE THING TO YOUR DEAR WIFE...
...I'LL FIND OUT AND MAKE THE MURDERER PAY IN FULL!
TO BE CONTINUED IN FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #21!

MARK GRUENWALD STORY
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JIM SINCLAIR INKS
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KEN LOPEZ LETTERS
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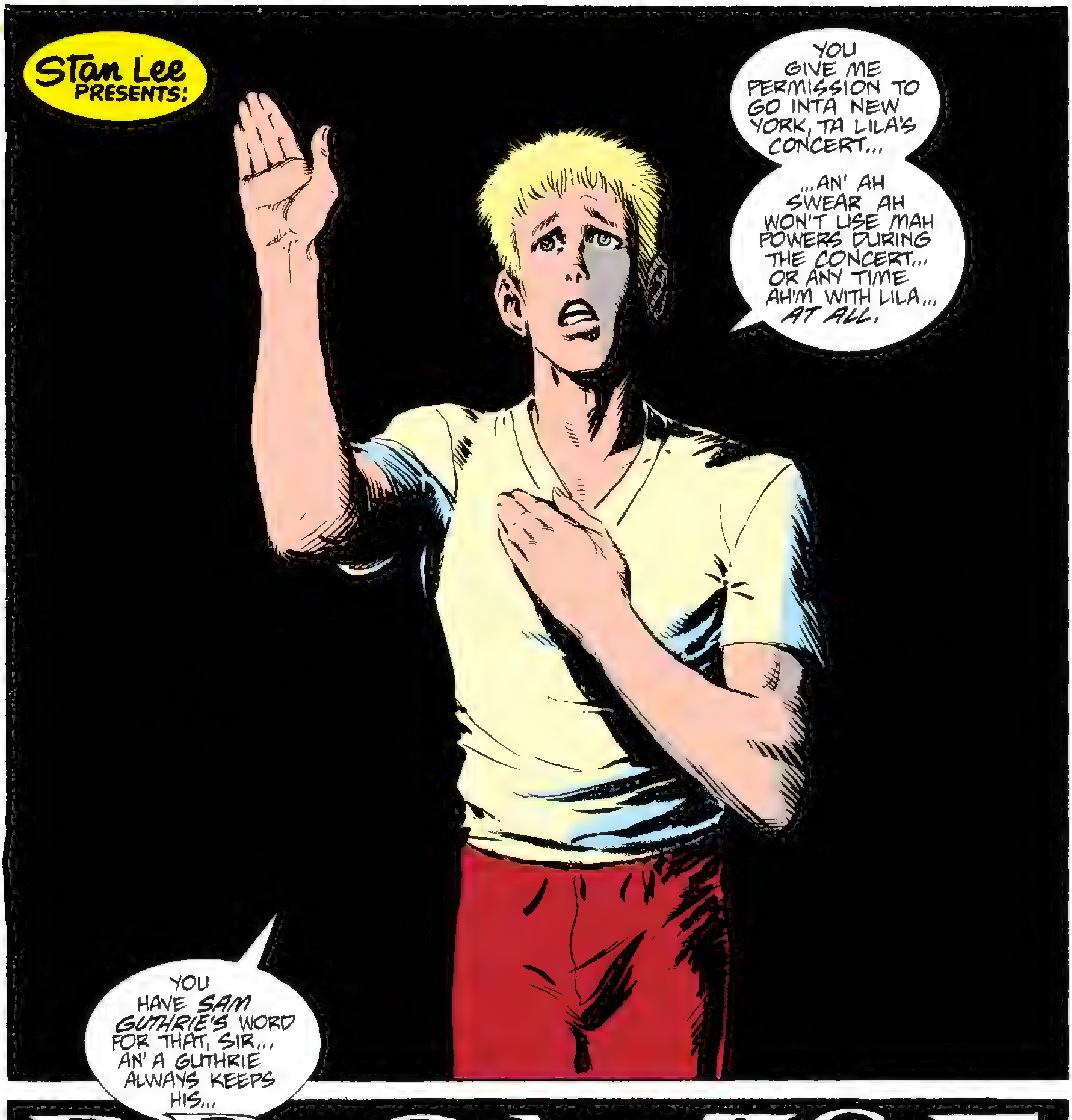
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
YOU GIVE ME PERMISSION TO GO INTA NEW YORK, TA LILA'S CONCERT...
...AN' AH SWEAR AH WON'T USE MAH POWERS DURING THE CONCERT... OR ANY TIME AH'M WITH LILA... *AT ALL.*
YOU HAVE *SAM GUTHRIE'S* WORD FOR THAT, SIR... AN' A GUTHRIE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS...

PROMISE

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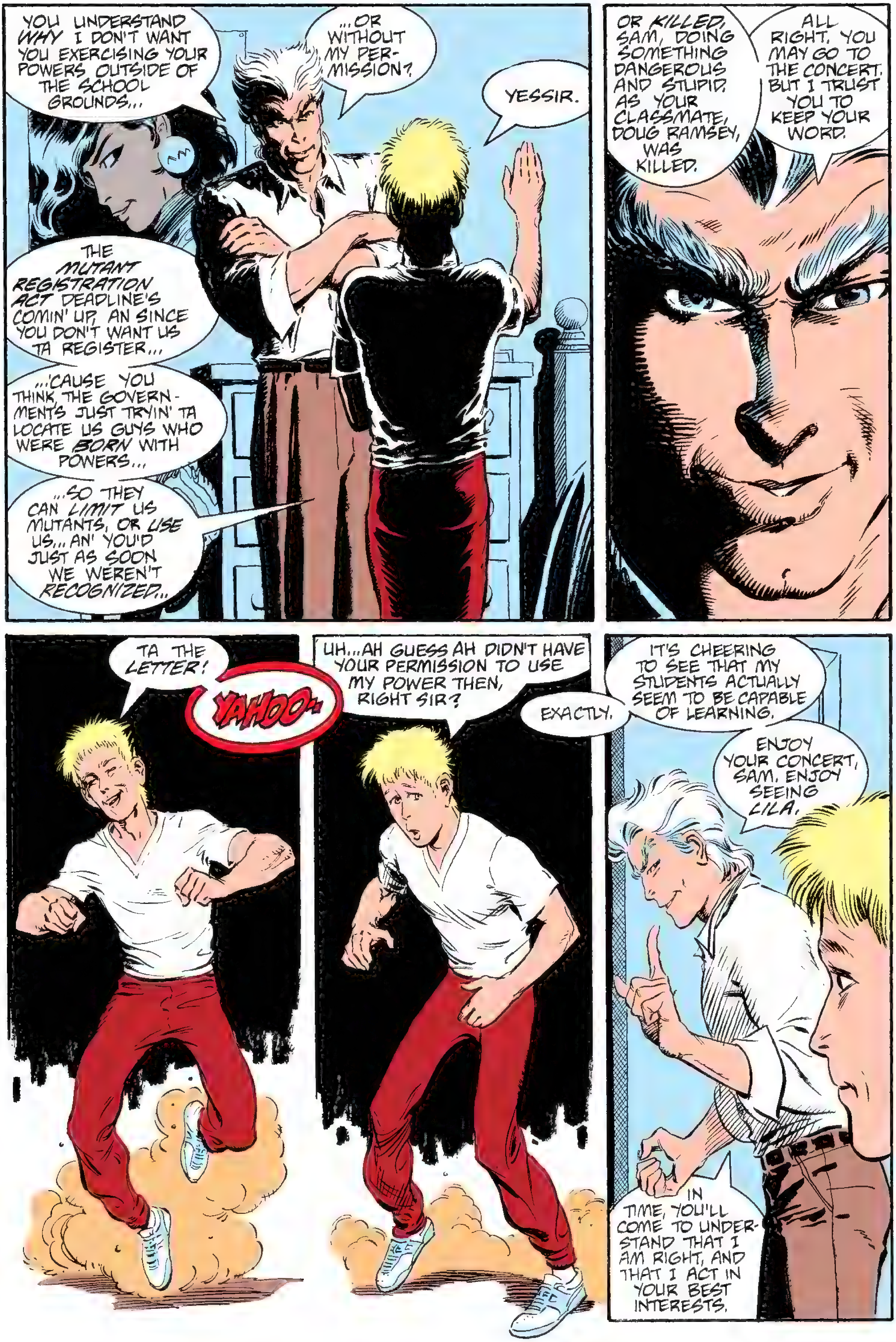
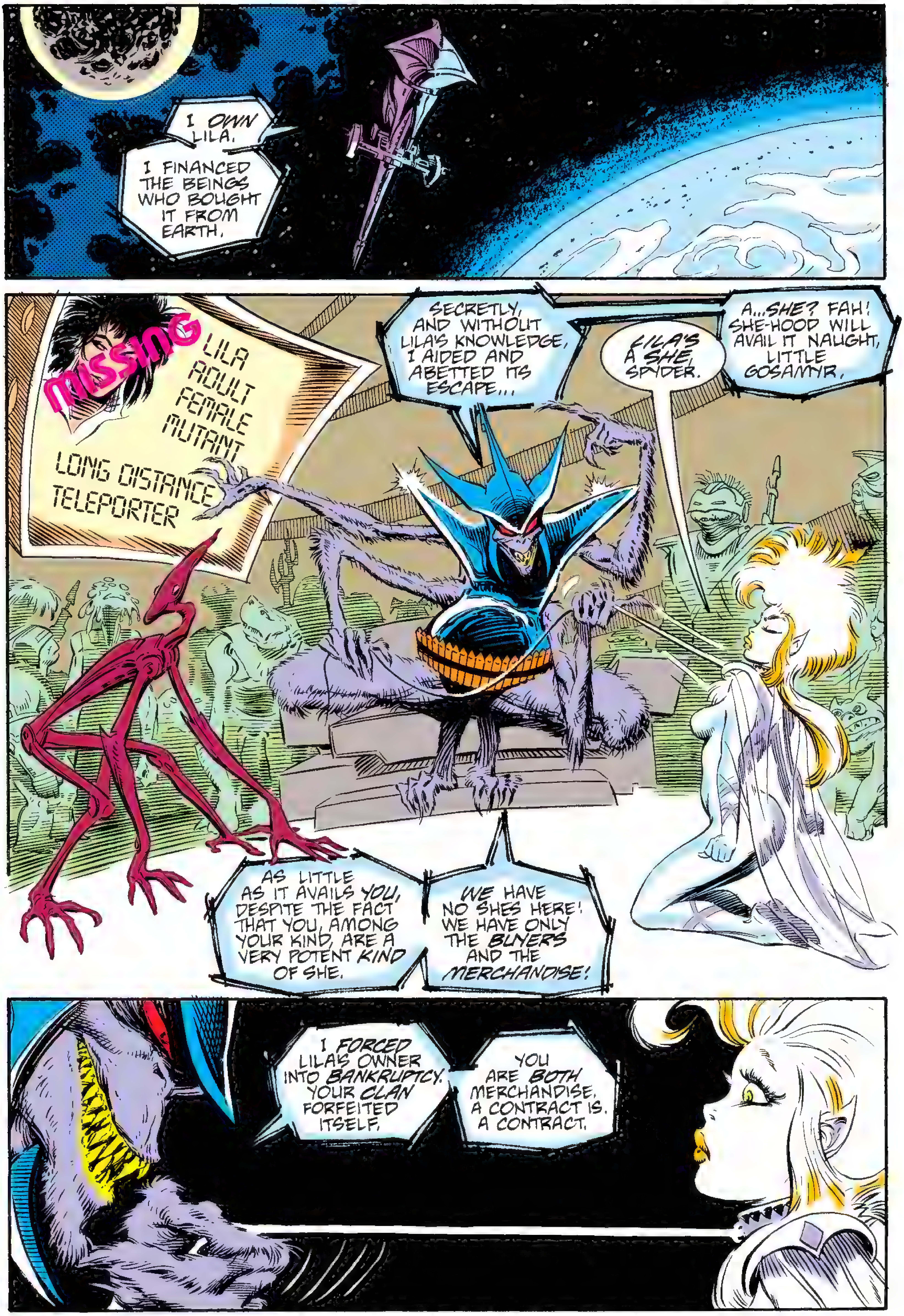
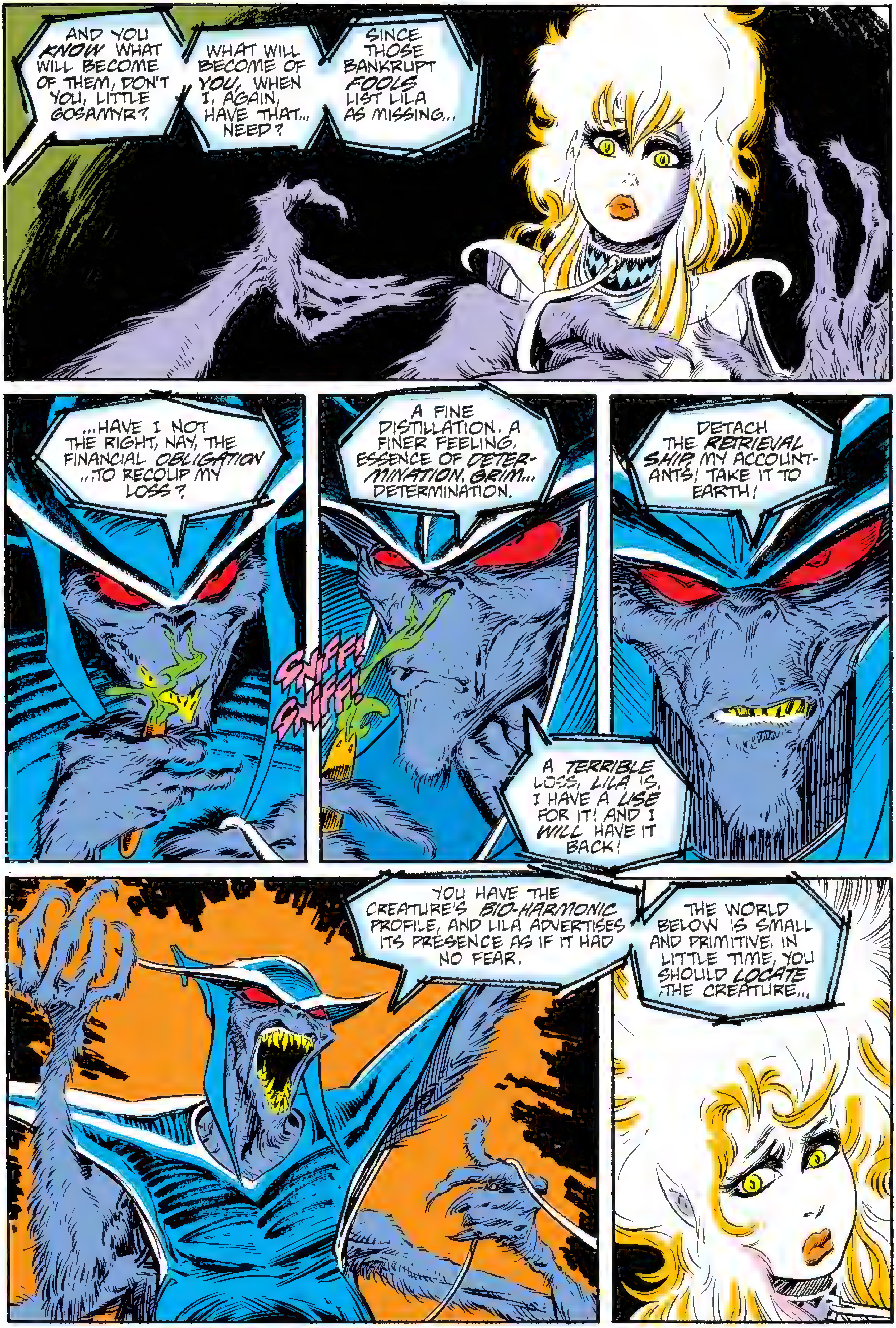
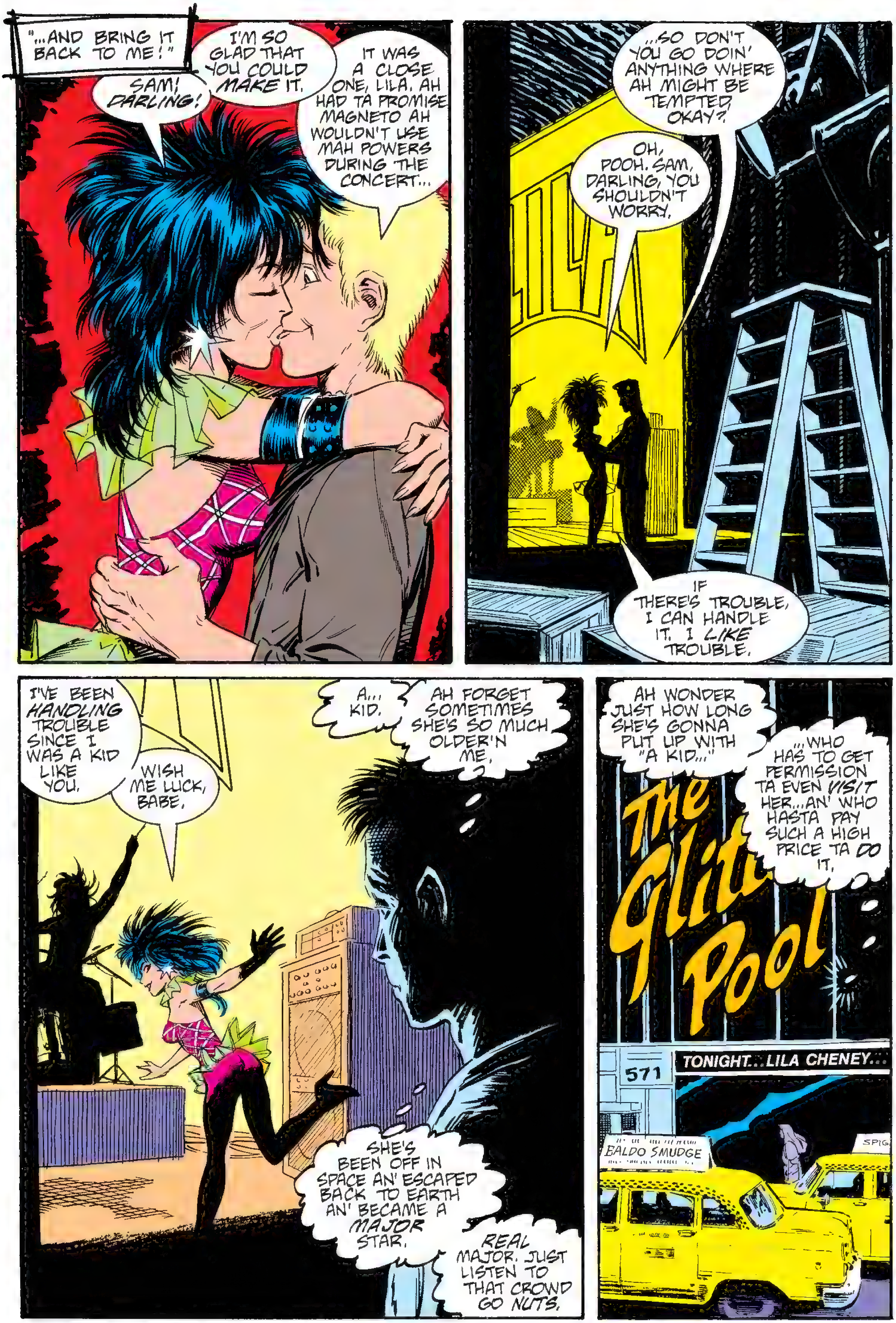
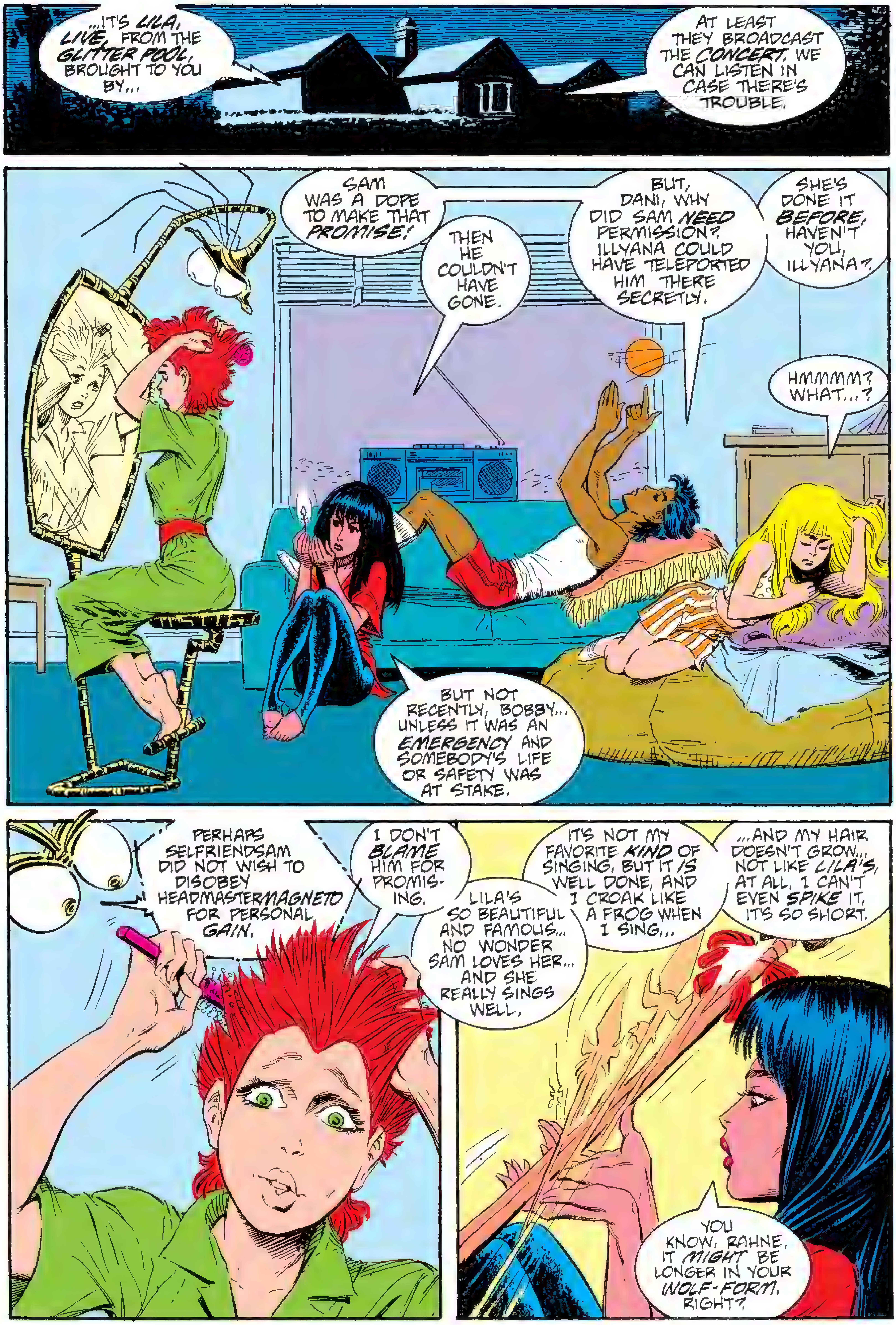
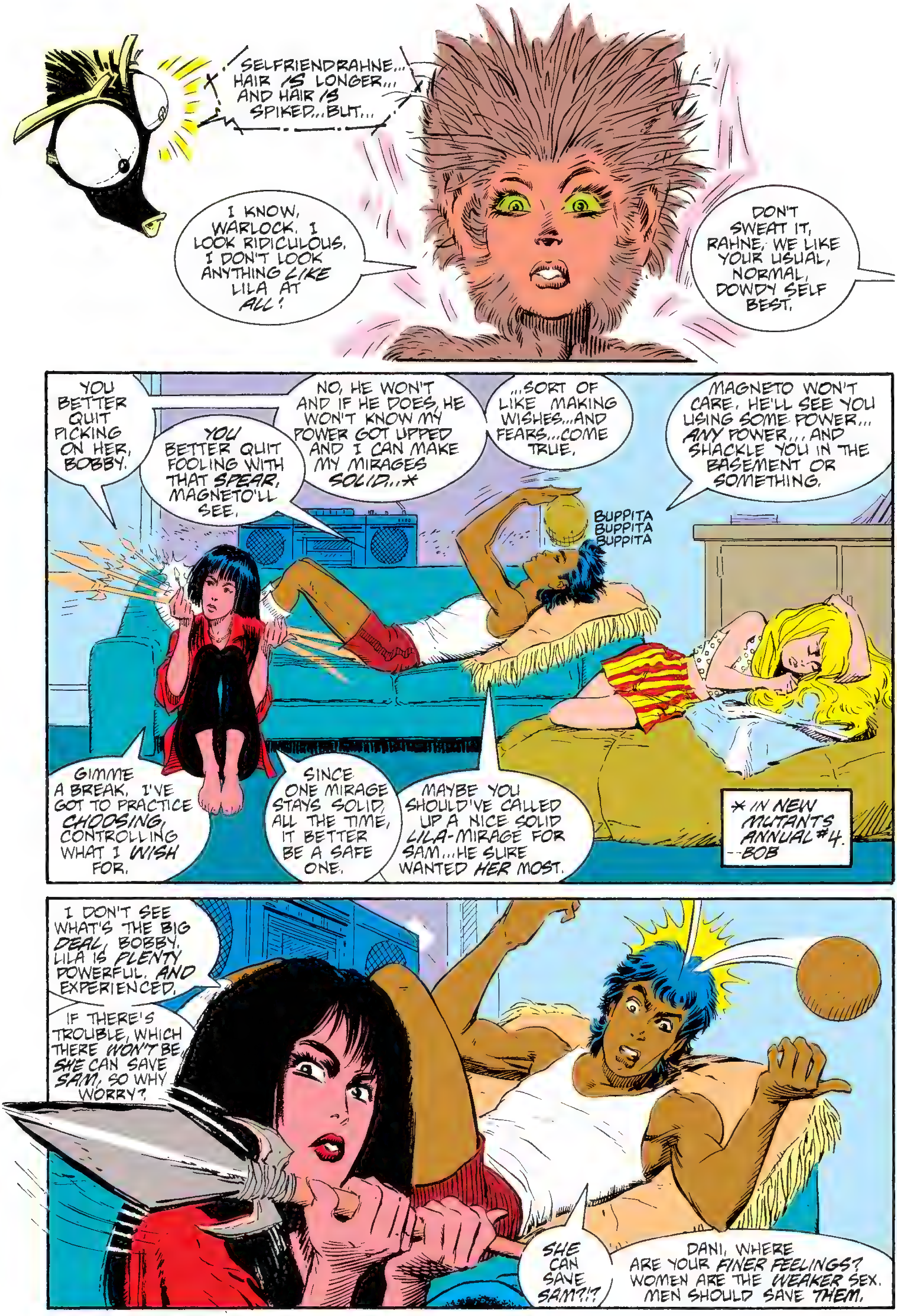

YOU UNDERSTAND *WHY* I DON'T WANT YOU EXERCISING YOUR POWERS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS...
...OR WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
YESSIR.
THE *MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT* DEADLINE'S COMIN' UP, AN SINCE YOU DON'T WANT US TA REGISTER...
...'CAUSE YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT'S JUST TRYIN' TA LOCATE US GUYS WHO WERE *BORN* WITH POWERS...
...SO THEY CAN *LIMIT* US MUTANTS, OR *USE* US... AN' YOU'D JUST AS SOON WE WEREN'T *RECOGNIZED*...
OR *KILLED*, SAM, DOING SOMETHING DANGEROUS AND STUPID, AS YOUR CLASSMATE, DOUG RAMSEY, WAS KILLED.
ALL RIGHT. YOU MAY GO TO THE CONCERT. BUT I TRUST YOU TO KEEP YOUR WORD.
TA THE *LETTER*!
YAHOO--
UH...AH GUESS AH DIDN'T HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO USE MY POWER THEN, RIGHT SIR?
EXACTLY.
IT'S CHEERING TO SEE THAT MY STUDENTS ACTUALLY SEEM TO BE CAPABLE OF LEARNING.
ENJOY YOUR CONCERT, SAM. ENJOY SEEING *LILA*.
IN TIME, YOU'LL COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT I AM RIGHT, AND THAT I ACT IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS.

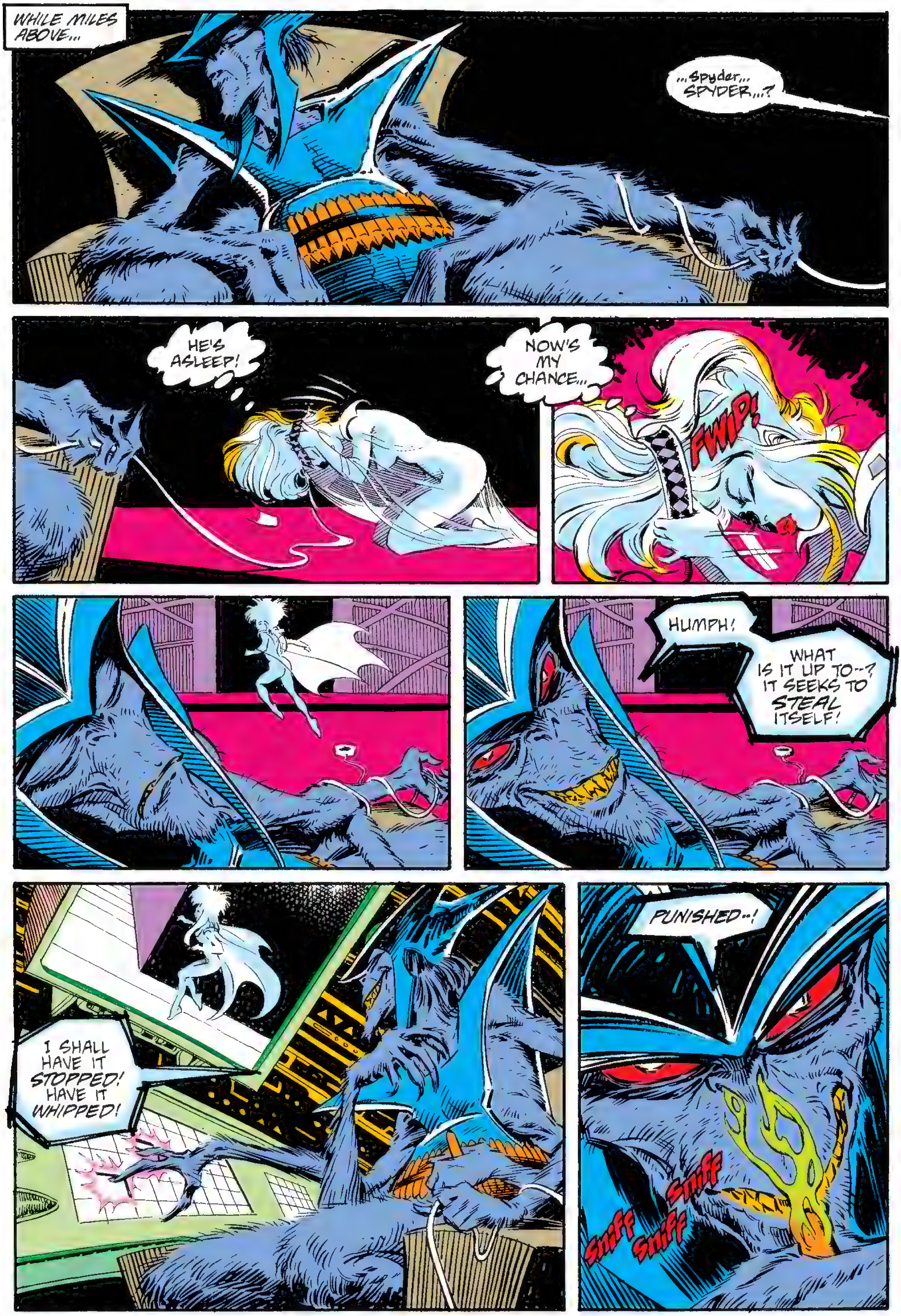

I OWN LILA.
I FINANCED THE BEINGS WHO BOUGHT IT FROM EARTH.
MISSING
LILA
ADULT
FEMALE
MUTANT
LONG DISTANCE TELEPORTER
SECRETLY, AND WITHOUT LILA'S KNOWLEDGE, I AIDED AND ABETTED ITS ESCAPE...
LILA'S A SHE, SPYDER.
A...SHE? FAH! SHE-HOOD WILL AVAIL IT NAUGHT, LITTLE GOSAMYR.
AS LITTLE AS IT AVAILS YOU, DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU, AMONG YOUR KIND, ARE A VERY POTENT KIND OF SHE.
WE HAVE NO SHES HERE! WE HAVE ONLY THE BUYERS AND THE MERCHANDISE!
I FORCED LILA'S OWNER INTO BANKRUPTCY. YOUR CLAN FORFEITED ITSELF.
YOU ARE BOTH MERCHANDISE. A CONTRACT IS A CONTRACT.

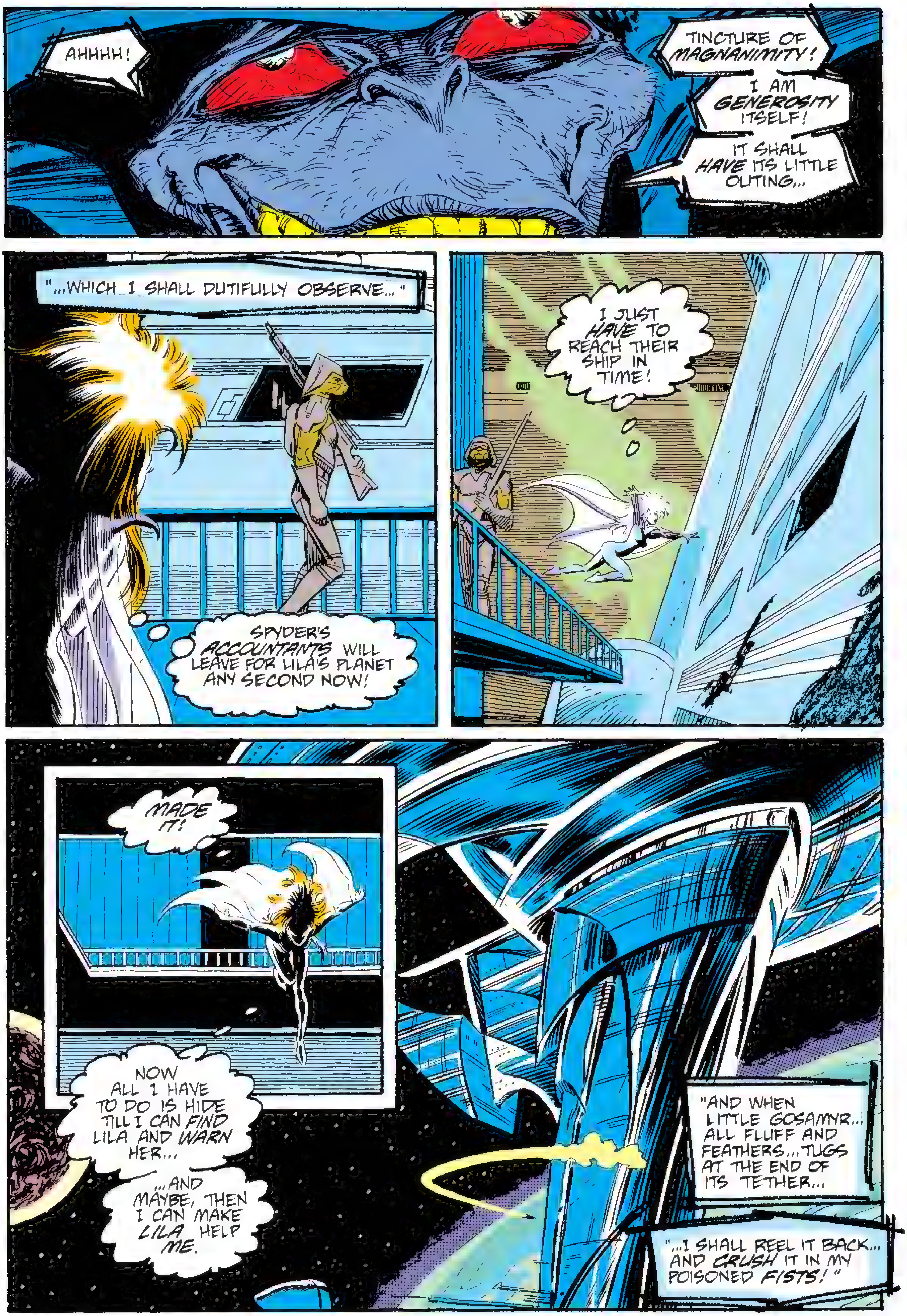

AND YOU *KNOW* WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEM, DON'T YOU, LITTLE GOSAMYR?
WHAT WILL BECOME OF *YOU,* WHEN I, AGAIN, HAVE THAT... NEED?
SINCE THOSE BANKRUPT *FOOLS* LIST LILA AS MISSING...
...HAVE I NOT THE RIGHT, NAY, THE FINANCIAL *OBLIGATION* ...TO RECOUP MY LOSS?
SNIFF! SNIFF!
A FINE DISTILLATION. A FINER FEELING. ESSENCE OF *DETERMINATION. GRIM...* DETERMINATION.
DETACH THE *RETRIEVAL SHIP,* MY ACCOUNTANTS! TAKE IT TO EARTH!
A *TERRIBLE* LOSS, *LILA* IS. I HAVE A *USE* FOR IT! AND I *WILL* HAVE IT BACK!
YOU HAVE THE CREATURE'S *BIO-HARMONIC* PROFILE, AND LILA ADVERTISES ITS PRESENCE AS IF IT HAD NO FEAR.
THE WORLD BELOW IS SMALL AND PRIMITIVE. IN LITTLE TIME, YOU SHOULD *LOCATE* THE CREATURE...

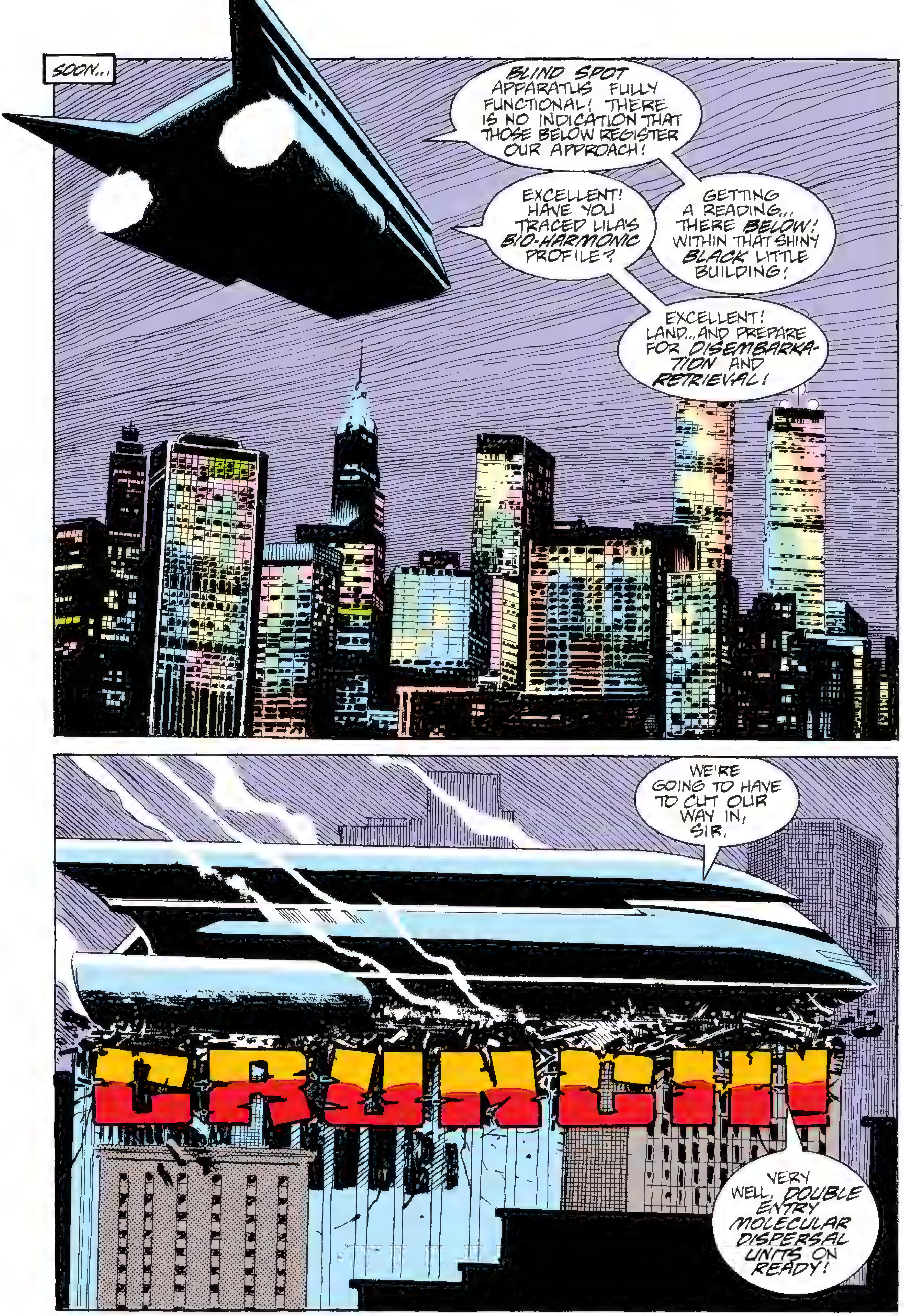

"...AND BRING IT BACK TO ME!"
SAM! DARLING!
I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU COULD MAKE IT.
IT WAS A CLOSE ONE, LILA. AH HAD TA PROMISE MAGNETO AH WOULDN'T USE MAH POWERS DURING THE CONCERT...
...SO DON'T YOU GO DOIN' ANYTHING WHERE AH MIGHT BE TEMPTED, OKAY?
OH, POOH. SAM, DARLING, YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY.
LILA
IF THERE'S TROUBLE, I CAN HANDLE IT. I LIKE TROUBLE.
I'VE BEEN HANDLING TROUBLE SINCE I WAS A KID LIKE YOU.
WISH ME LUCK, BABE.
A... KID.
AH FORGET SOMETIMES SHE'S SO MUCH OLDER'N ME.
SHE'S BEEN OFF IN SPACE AN' ESCAPED BACK TO EARTH AN' BECAME A MAJOR STAR.
REAL MAJOR. JUST LISTEN TO THAT CROWD GO NUTS.
AH WONDER JUST HOW LONG SHE'S GONNA PUT UP WITH "A KID..."
...WHO HAS TO GET PERMISSION TA EVEN VISIT HER...AN' WHO HASTA PAY SUCH A HIGH PRICE TA DO IT.
The Glit Pool
571
TONIGHT...LILA CHENEY...
EALDO SMUDGE
SPIG

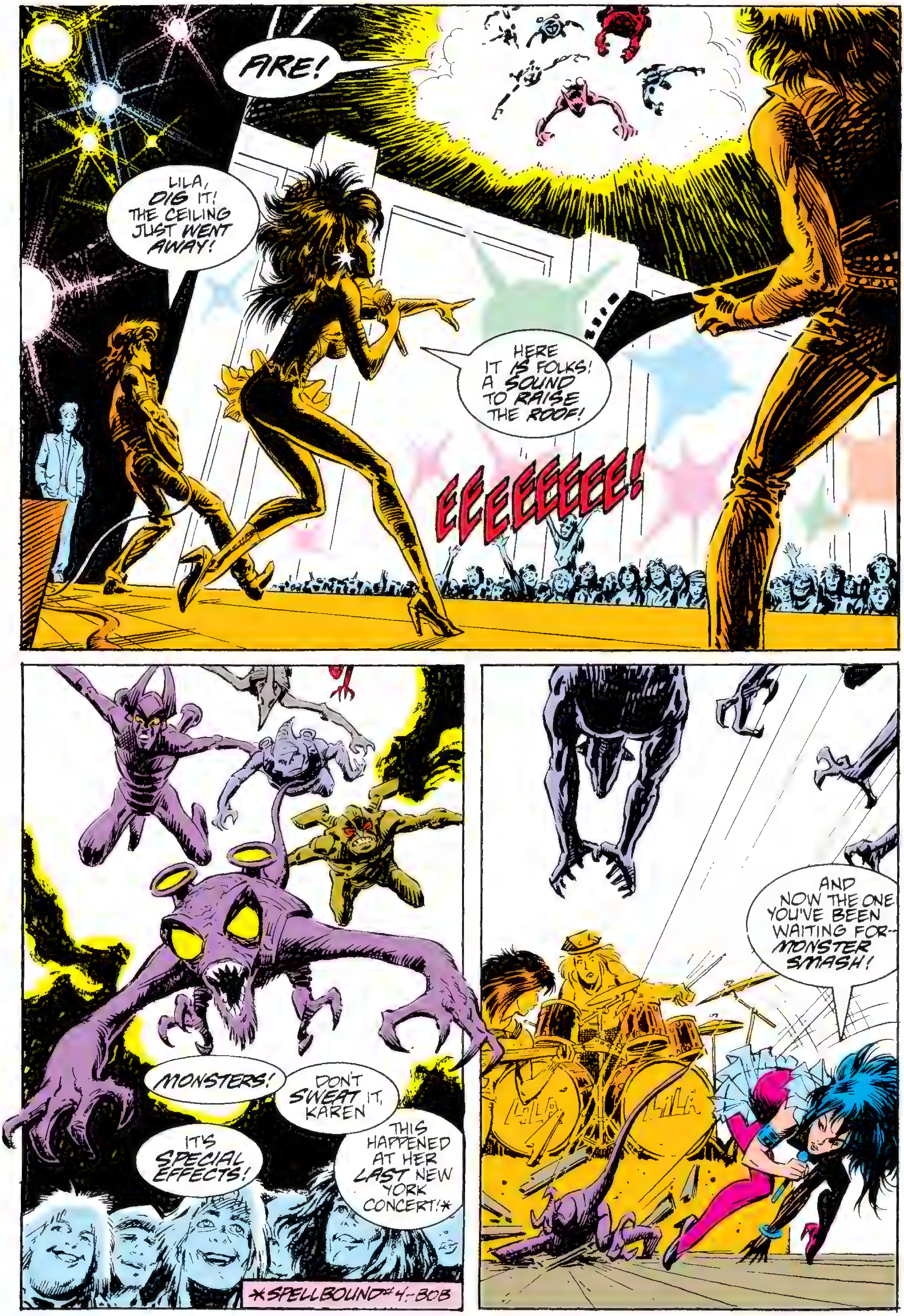

...IT'S *LILA, LIVE,* FROM THE *GLITTER POOL,* BROUGHT TO YOU BY...
AT LEAST THEY BROADCAST THE *CONCERT.* WE CAN LISTEN IN CASE THERE'S TROUBLE.
SAM WAS A DOPE TO MAKE THAT *PROMISE!*
THEN HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE.
BUT, DANI, WHY DID SAM *NEED* PERMISSION? ILLYANA COULD HAVE TELEPORTED HIM THERE SECRETLY.
SHE'S DONE IT *BEFORE,* HAVEN'T YOU, ILLYANA?
HMMMM? WHAT...?
BUT NOT RECENTLY, BOBBY... UNLESS IT WAS AN *EMERGENCY* AND SOMEBODY'S LIFE OR SAFETY WAS AT STAKE.
PERHAPS SELFRIENDSAM DID NOT WISH TO DISOBEY HEADMASTER*MAGNETO* FOR PERSONAL *GAIN.*
I DON'T *BLAME* HIM FOR PROMISING.
LILA'S SO BEAUTIFUL AND FAMOUS... NO WONDER SAM LOVES HER... AND SHE REALLY SINGS WELL.
IT'S NOT MY FAVORITE *KIND* OF SINGING, BUT IT *IS* WELL DONE, AND I CROAK LIKE A FROG WHEN I SING...
...AND MY HAIR DOESN'T GROW... NOT LIKE *LILA'S,* AT ALL. I CAN'T EVEN *SPIKE* IT, IT'S SO SHORT.
YOU KNOW, RAHNE, IT *MIGHT* BE LONGER IN YOUR *WOLF-FORM.* RIGHT?

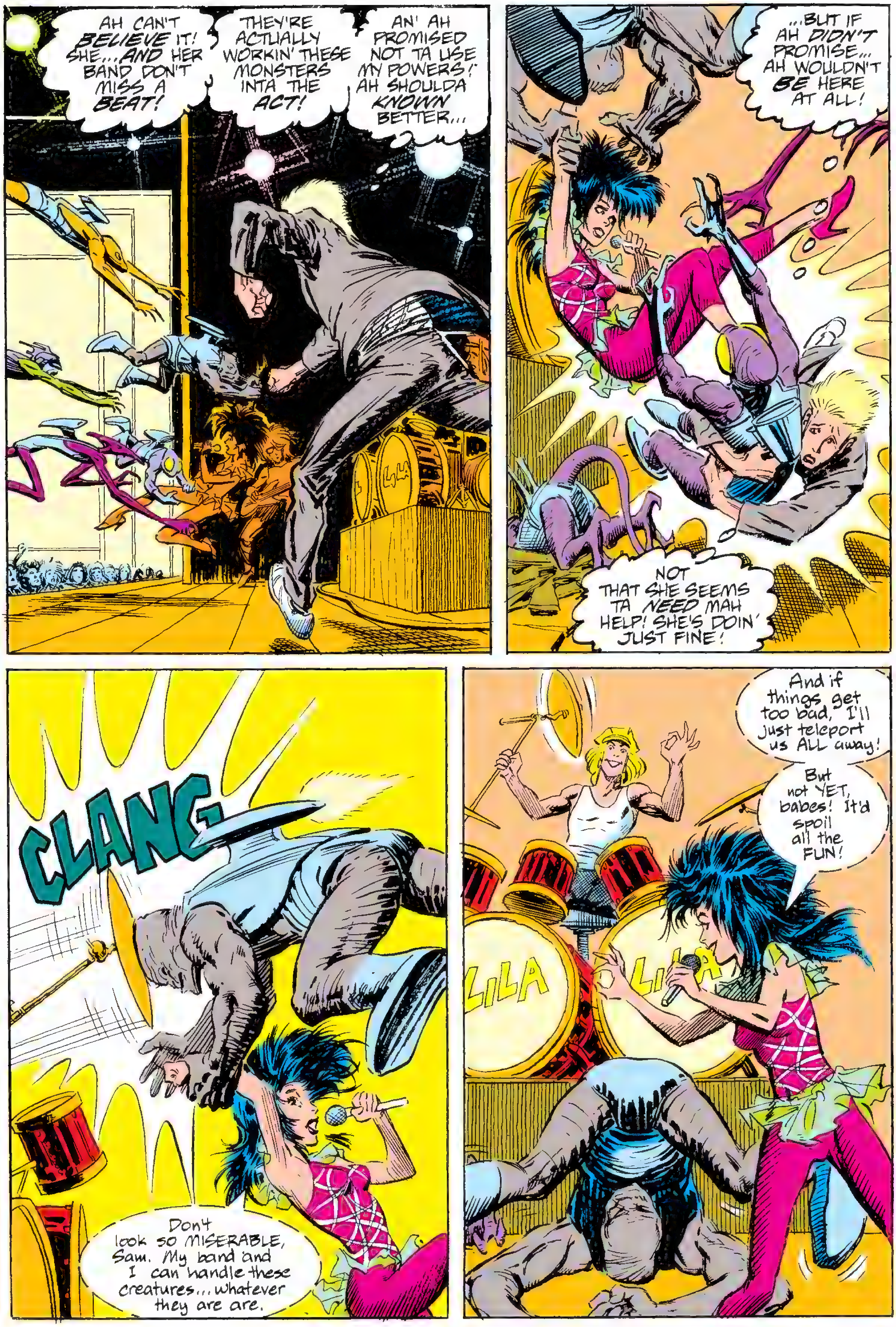

SELFRIENDRAHNE... HAIR IS LONGER... AND HAIR IS SPIKED... BUT...
I KNOW, WARLOCK. I LOOK RIDICULOUS. I DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE LILA AT ALL!
DON'T SWEAT IT, RAHNE. WE LIKE YOUR USUAL, NORMAL, DOWDY SELF BEST.
YOU BETTER QUIT PICKING ON HER, BOBBY.
YOU BETTER QUIT FOOLING WITH THAT SPEAR. MAGNETO'LL SEE.
NO, HE WON'T AND IF HE DOES, HE WON'T KNOW MY POWER GOT UPPED AND I CAN MAKE MY MIRAGES SOLID...*
...SORT OF LIKE MAKING WISHES...AND FEARS...COME TRUE.
MAGNETO WON'T CARE. HE'LL SEE YOU USING SOME POWER... ANY POWER... AND SHACKLE YOU IN THE BASEMENT OR SOMETHING.
BUPPITA BUPPITA BUPPITA
GIMME A BREAK. I'VE GOT TO PRACTICE CHOOSING, CONTROLLING WHAT I WISH FOR.
SINCE ONE MIRAGE STAYS SOLID ALL THE TIME, IT BETTER BE A SAFE ONE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED UP A NICE SOLID LILA-MIRAGE FOR SAM... HE SURE WANTED HER MOST.
* IN NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #4. --BOB
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, BOBBY. LILA IS PLENTY POWERFUL AND EXPERIENCED.
IF THERE'S TROUBLE, WHICH THERE WON'T BE, SHE CAN SAVE SAM, SO WHY WORRY?
SHE CAN SAVE SAM?!?
DANI, WHERE ARE YOUR FINER FEELINGS? WOMEN ARE THE WEAKER SEX. MEN SHOULD SAVE THEM.

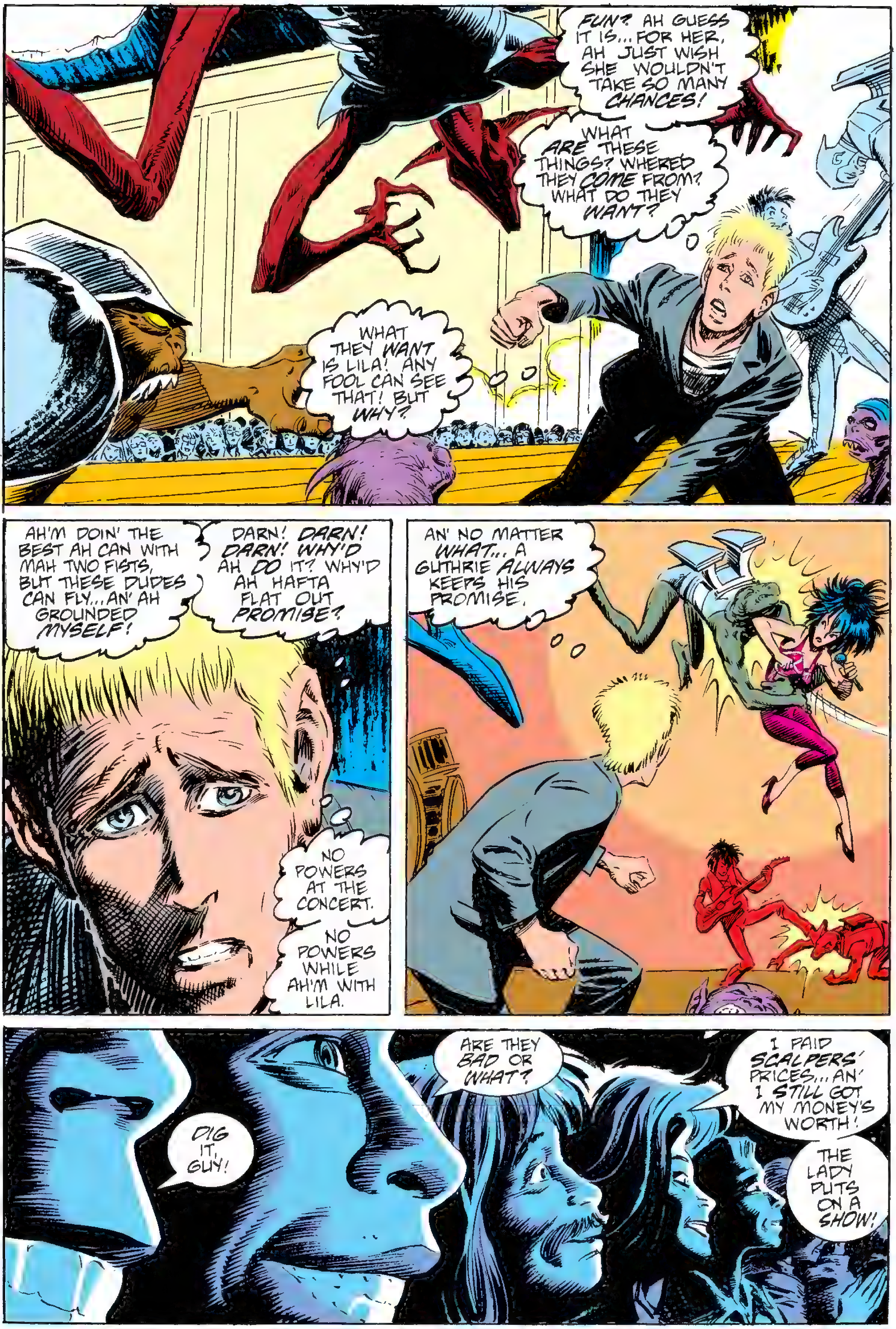

WHILE MILES ABOVE...
...Spyder... SPYDER...?
HE'S ASLEEP!
NOW'S MY CHANCE...
FWIP!
HUMPH!
WHAT IS IT UP TO--? IT SEEKS TO STEAL ITSELF!
I SHALL HAVE IT STOPPED! HAVE IT WHIPPED!
PUNISHED--!
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

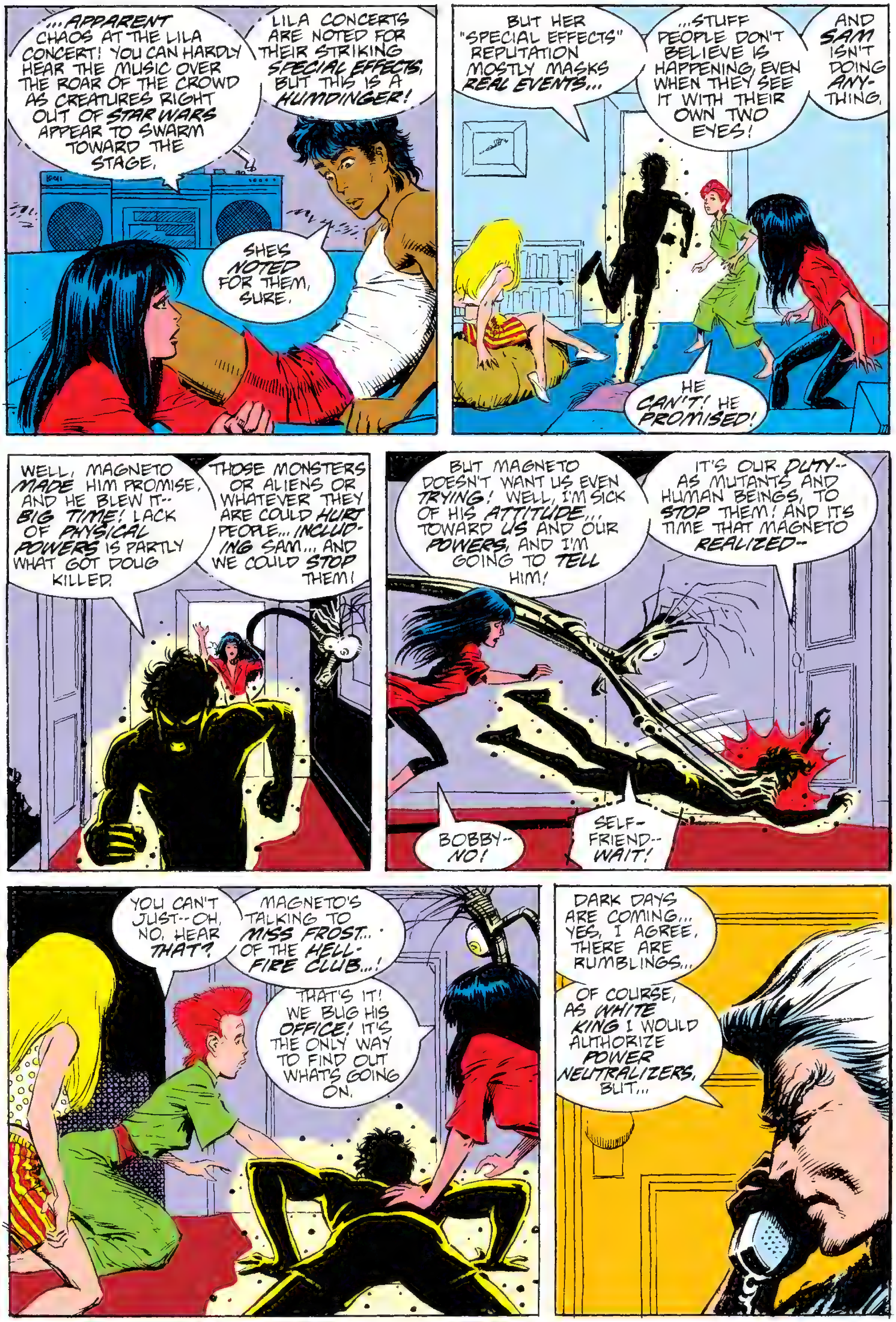

AHHHH!
TINCTURE OF *MAGNANIMITY*!
I AM *GENEROSITY* ITSELF!
IT SHALL *HAVE* ITS LITTLE OUTING...
"...WHICH I SHALL DUTIFULLY OBSERVE..."
SPYDER'S *ACCOUNTANTS* WILL LEAVE FOR LILA'S PLANET ANY SECOND NOW!
I JUST *HAVE* TO REACH THEIR SHIP IN TIME!
MADE IT!
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HIDE TILL I CAN *FIND* LILA AND *WARN* HER...
...AND MAYBE, THEN I CAN MAKE *LILA* HELP ME.
"AND WHEN LITTLE GOSAMYR... ALL FLUFF AND FEATHERS... TUGS AT THE END OF ITS TETHER...
"...I SHALL REEL IT BACK... AND *CRUSH* IT IN MY POISONED *FISTS*!"

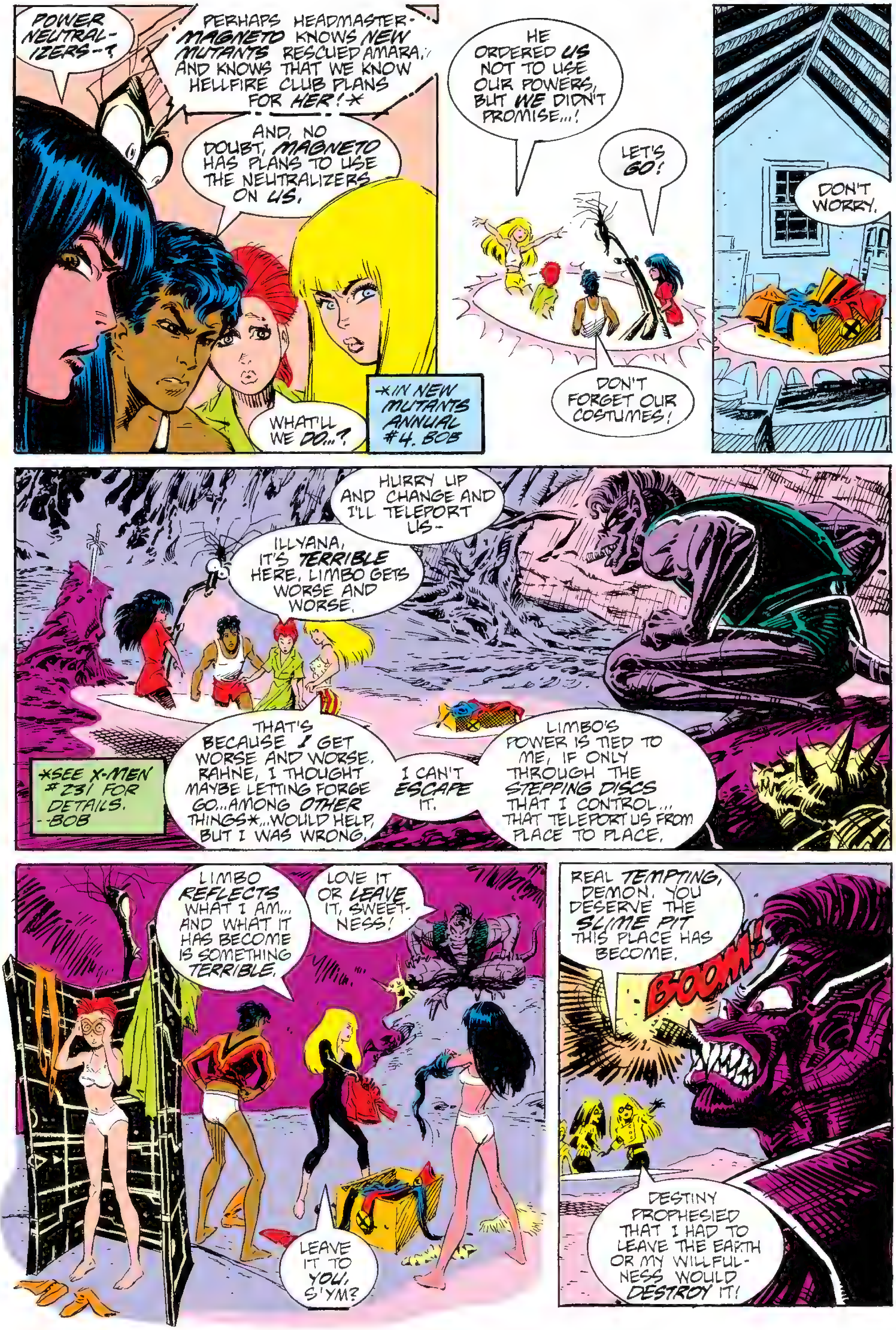

SOON...
BLIND SPOT APPARATUS FULLY FUNCTIONAL! THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THOSE BELOW REGISTER OUR APPROACH!
EXCELLENT! HAVE YOU TRACED LILA'S BIO-HARMONIC PROFILE?
GETTING A READING... THERE BELOW! WITHIN THAT SHINY BLACK LITTLE BUILDING!
EXCELLENT! LAND...AND PREPARE FOR DISEMBARKATION AND RETRIEVAL!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CUT OUR WAY IN, SIR.
CRUNCH!
VERY WELL. DOUBLE ENTRY MOLECULAR DISPERSAL UNITS ON READY!

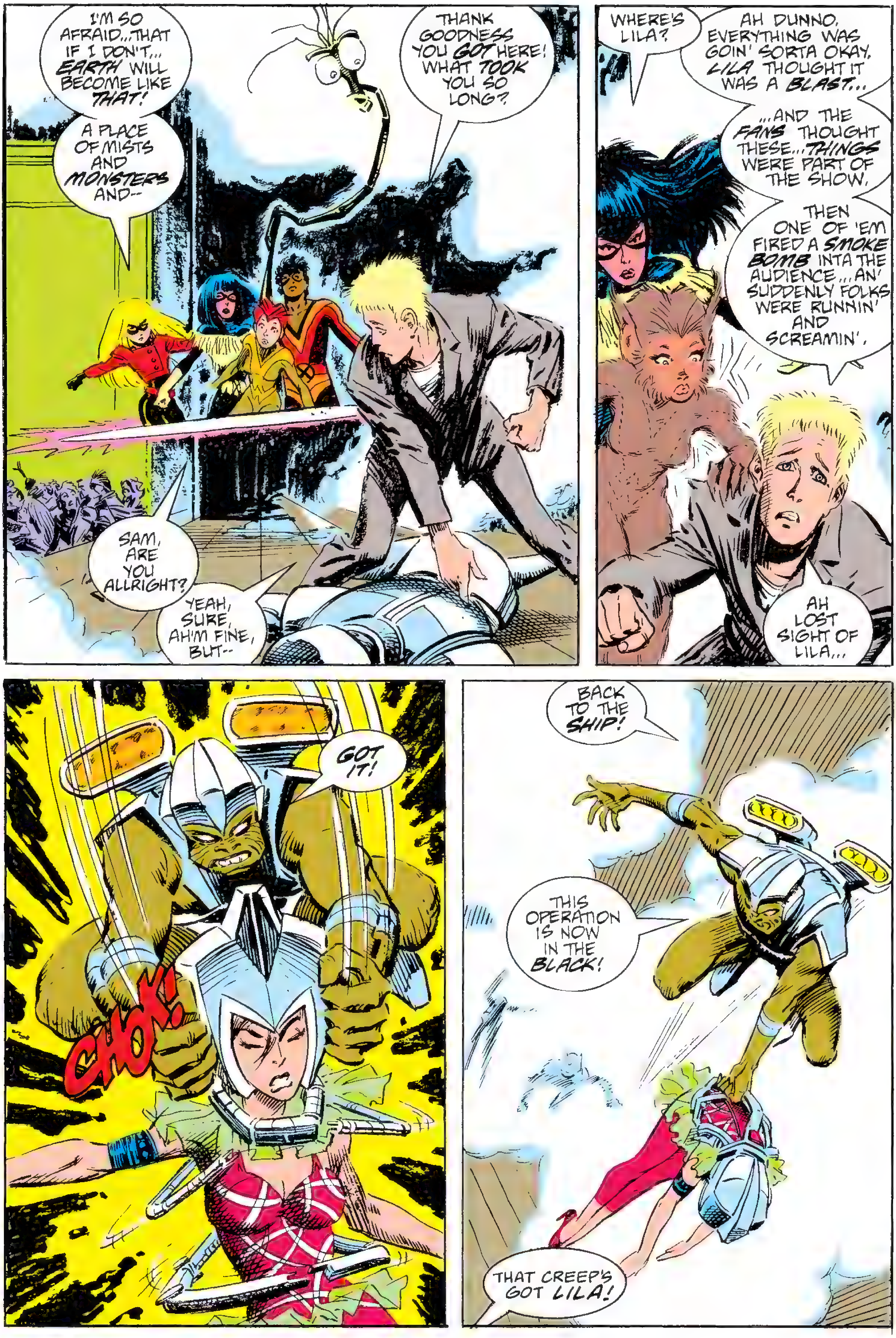

FIRE!
LILA, DIG IT! THE CEILING JUST WENT AWAY!
HERE IT IS FOLKS! A SOUND TO RAISE THE ROOF!
EEEEEEEE!
MONSTERS!
DON'T SWEAT IT, KAREN
IT'S SPECIAL EFFECTS!
THIS HAPPENED AT HER LAST NEW YORK CONCERT!*
*SPELLBOUND #4.--BOB
AND NOW THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR-- MONSTER SMASH!
LILA
LILA

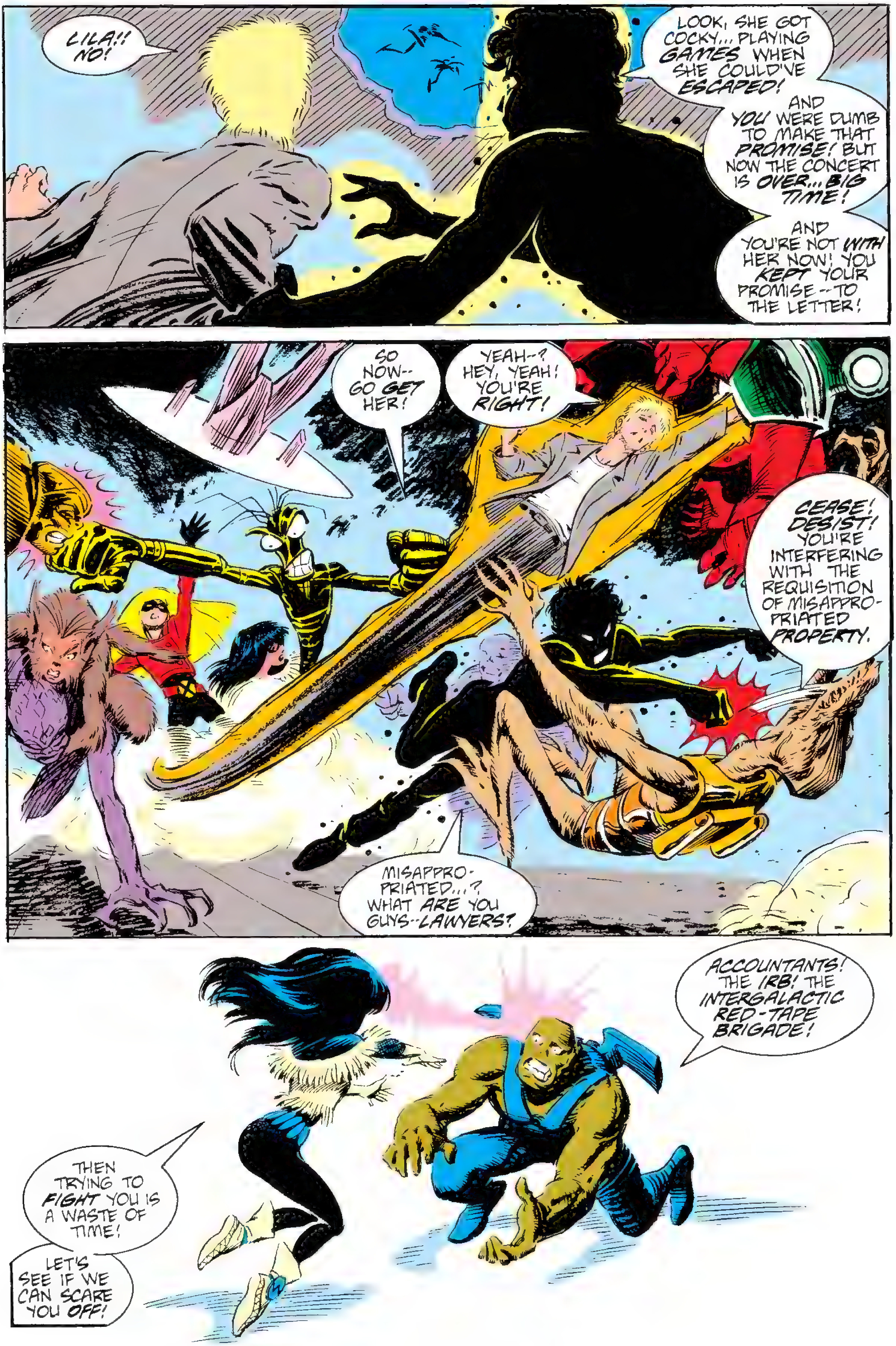

AH CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE... AND HER BAND DON'T MISS A BEAT!
THEY'RE ACTUALLY WORKIN' THESE MONSTERS INTA THE ACT!
AN' AH PROMISED NOT TA USE MY POWERS! AH SHOULDA KNOWN BETTER...
...BUT IF AH DIDN'T PROMISE... AH WOULDN'T BE HERE AT ALL!
NOT THAT SHE SEEMS TA NEED MAH HELP! SHE'S DOIN' JUST FINE!
LILA
CLANG
Don't look so MISERABLE, Sam. My band and I can handle these creatures... whatever they are are.
And if things get too bad, I'll just teleport us ALL away!
But not YET, babes! It'd spoil all the FUN!
LILA
LILA

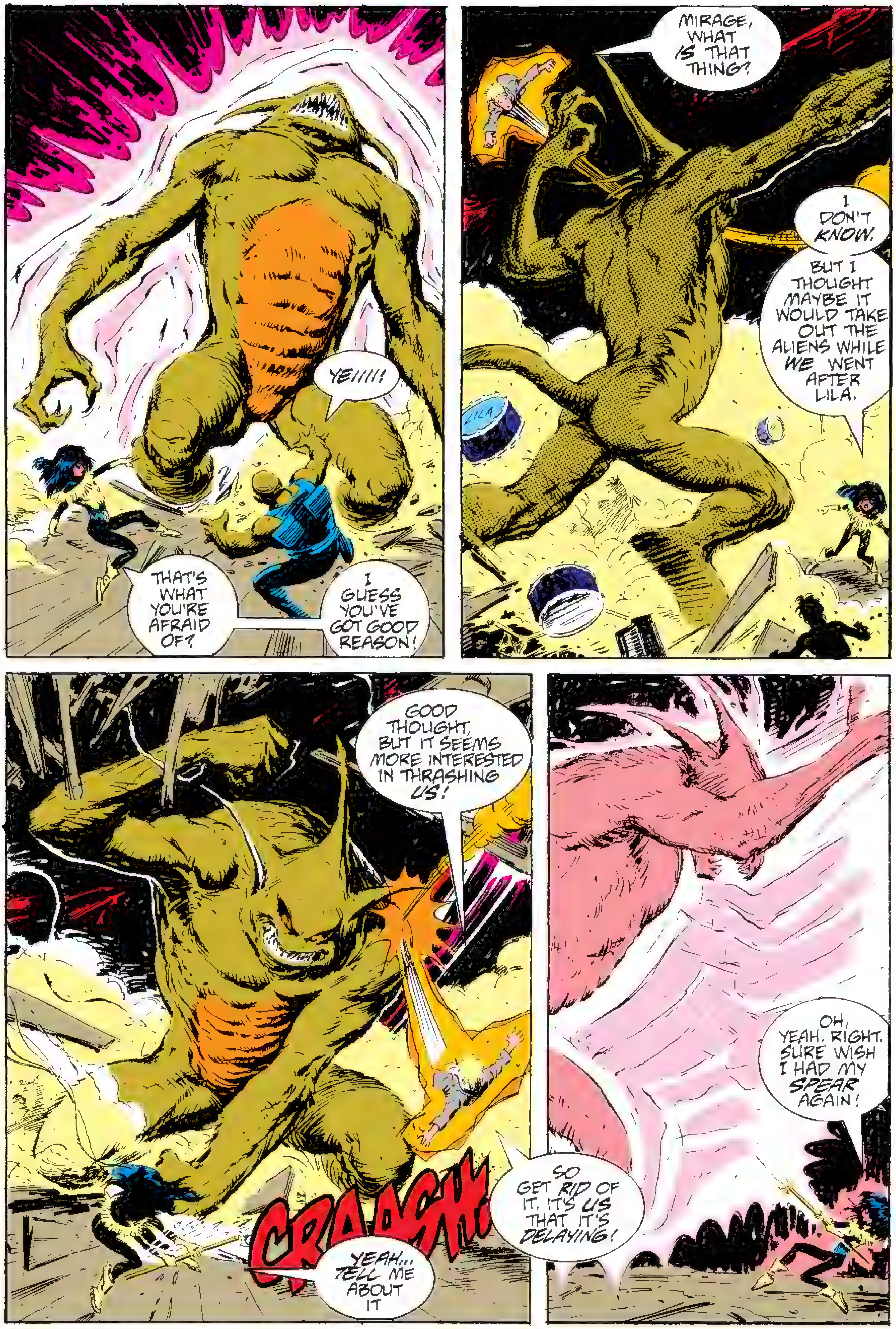

FUN? AH GUESS IT IS... FOR HER. AH JUST WISH SHE WOULDN'T TAKE SO MANY CHANCES!
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS? WHERE'D THEY COME FROM? WHAT DO THEY WANT?
WHAT THEY WANT IS LILA! ANY FOOL CAN SEE THAT! BUT WHY?
AH'M DOIN' THE BEST AH CAN WITH MAH TWO FISTS, BUT THESE DUDES CAN FLY... AN' AH GROUNDED MYSELF!
DARN! DARN! DARN! WHY'D AH DO IT? WHY'D AH HAFTA FLAT OUT PROMISE?
NO POWERS AT THE CONCERT.
NO POWERS WHILE AH'M WITH LILA.
AN' NO MATTER WHAT... A GUTHRIE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISE.
DIG IT, GUY!
ARE THEY BAD OR WHAT?
I PAID SCALPERS' PRICES... AN' I STILL GOT MY MONEY'S WORTH!
THE LADY PUTS ON A SHOW!

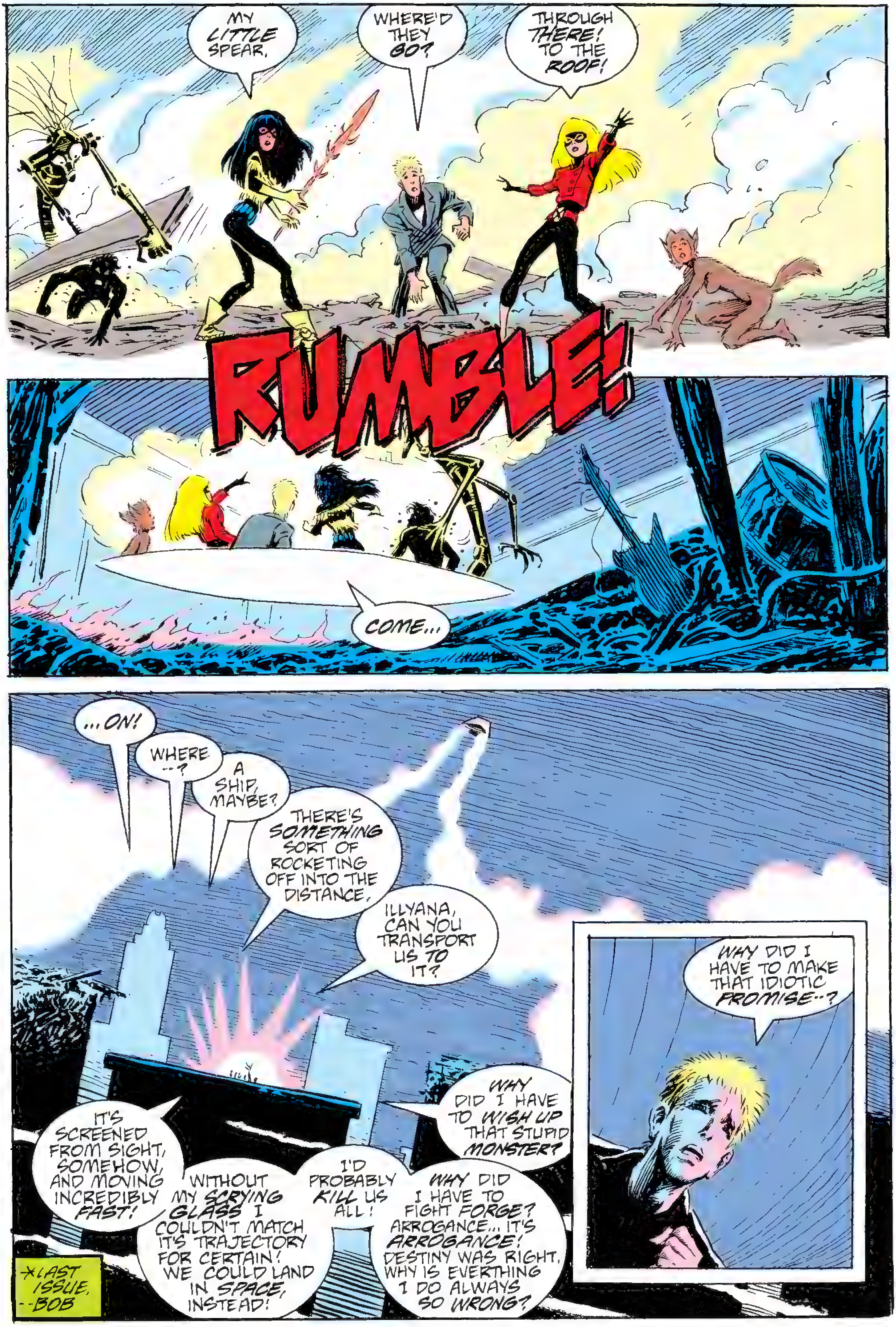

...*APPARENT* CHAOS AT THE LILA CONCERT! YOU CAN HARDLY HEAR THE MUSIC OVER THE ROAR OF THE CROWD AS CREATURES RIGHT OUT OF *STAR WARS* APPEAR TO SWARM TOWARD THE STAGE.
LILA CONCERTS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR STRIKING *SPECIAL EFFECTS,* BUT THIS IS A *HUMDINGER!*
SHE'S *NOTED* FOR THEM, SURE.
BUT HER "SPECIAL EFFECTS" REPUTATION MOSTLY MASKS *REAL EVENTS...*
...STUFF PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE IS HAPPENING, EVEN WHEN THEY SEE IT WITH THEIR OWN TWO EYES!
AND *SAM* ISN'T DOING *ANY*THING.
HE *CAN'T!* HE *PROMISED!*
WELL, MAGNETO *MADE* HIM PROMISE, AND HE BLEW IT-- *BIG TIME!* LACK OF *PHYSICAL POWERS* IS PARTLY WHAT GOT DOUG KILLED.
THOSE MONSTERS OR ALIENS OR WHATEVER THEY ARE COULD *HURT* PEOPLE... *INCLUDING* SAM... AND WE COULD *STOP* THEM!
BUT MAGNETO DOESN'T WANT US EVEN *TRYING!* WELL, I'M SICK OF HIS *ATTITUDE...* TOWARD *US* AND OUR *POWERS,* AND I'M GOING TO *TELL* HIM!
IT'S OUR *DUTY*-- AS MUTANTS AND HUMAN BEINGS, TO *STOP* THEM! AND IT'S TIME THAT MAGNETO *REALIZED*--
BOBBY-- NO!
SELF-FRIEND-- *WAIT!*
YOU CAN'T JUST--OH, NO. HEAR *THAT?*
MAGNETO'S TALKING TO *MISS FROST...* OF THE *HELL-FIRE CLUB...!*
THAT'S IT! WE BUG HIS *OFFICE!* IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
DARK DAYS ARE COMING... YES, I AGREE. THERE ARE RUMBLINGS...
OF COURSE, AS *WHITE KING* I WOULD AUTHORIZE *POWER NEUTRALIZERS,* BUT...

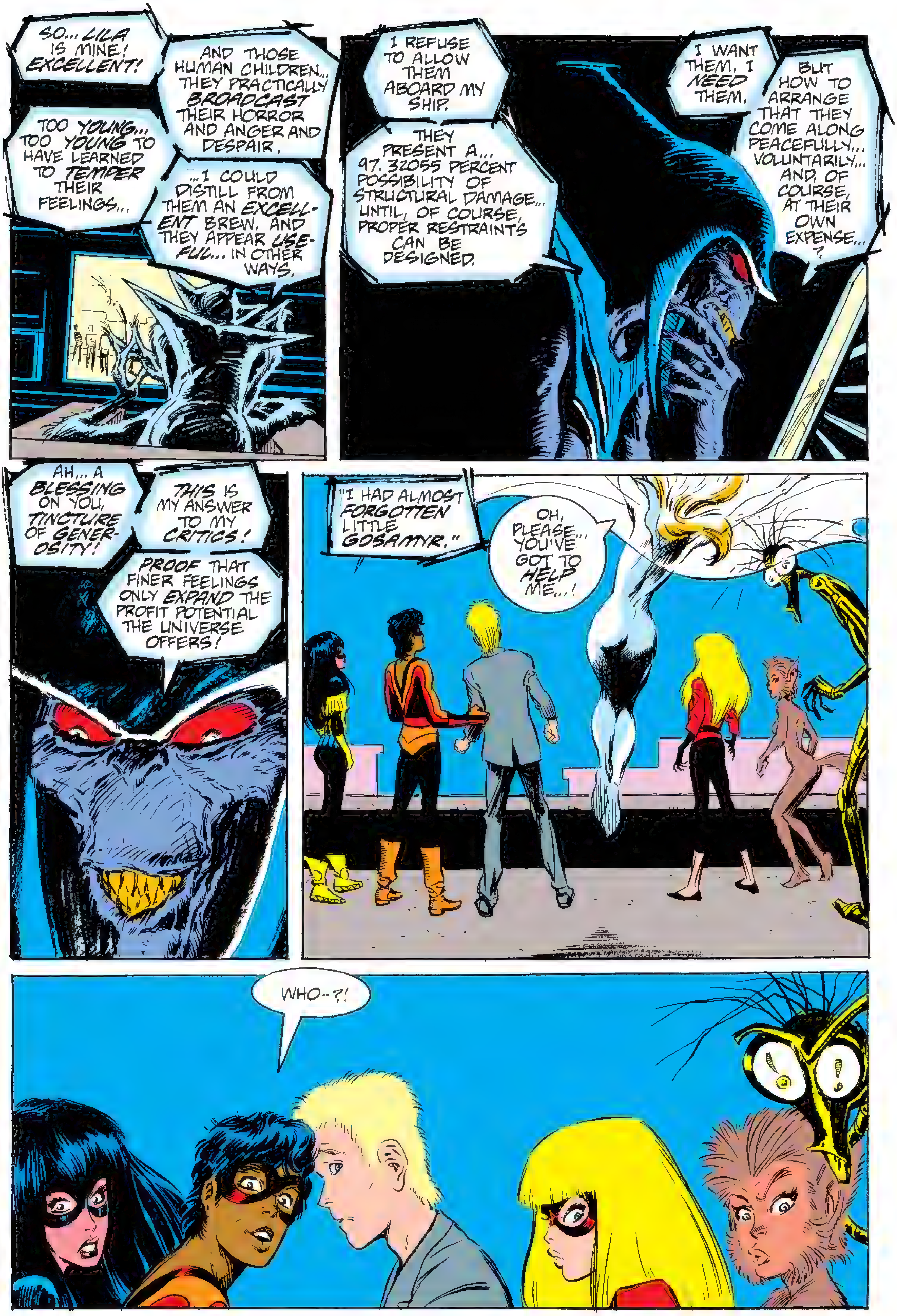

POWER NEUTRALIZERS--?
PERHAPS HEADMASTER-MAGNETO KNOWS NEW MUTANTS RESCUED AMARA, AND KNOWS THAT WE KNOW HELLFIRE CLUB PLANS FOR HER!*
AND, NO DOUBT, MAGNETO HAS PLANS TO USE THE NEUTRALIZERS ON US.
WHAT'LL WE DO...?
*IN NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #4. BOB
HE ORDERED US NOT TO USE OUR POWERS, BUT WE DIDN'T PROMISE...!
LET'S GO!
DON'T FORGET OUR COSTUMES!
DON'T WORRY.
HURRY UP AND CHANGE AND I'LL TELEPORT US-
ILLYANA, IT'S TERRIBLE HERE. LIMBO GETS WORSE AND WORSE.
THAT'S BECAUSE I GET WORSE AND WORSE. RAHNE, I THOUGHT MAYBE LETTING FORGE GO...AMONG OTHER THINGS*...WOULD HELP, BUT I WAS WRONG.
I CAN'T ESCAPE IT.
LIMBO'S POWER IS TIED TO ME, IF ONLY THROUGH THE STEPPING DISCS THAT I CONTROL... THAT TELEPORT US FROM PLACE TO PLACE.
*SEE X-MEN #231 FOR DETAILS. --BOB
LIMBO REFLECTS WHAT I AM... AND WHAT IT HAS BECOME IS SOMETHING TERRIBLE.
LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT, SWEETNESS!
LEAVE IT TO YOU, S'YM?
REAL TEMPTING, DEMON. YOU DESERVE THE SLIME PIT THIS PLACE HAS BECOME.
BOOM!
DESTINY PROPHESIED THAT I HAD TO LEAVE THE EARTH OR MY WILLFULNESS WOULD DESTROY IT!

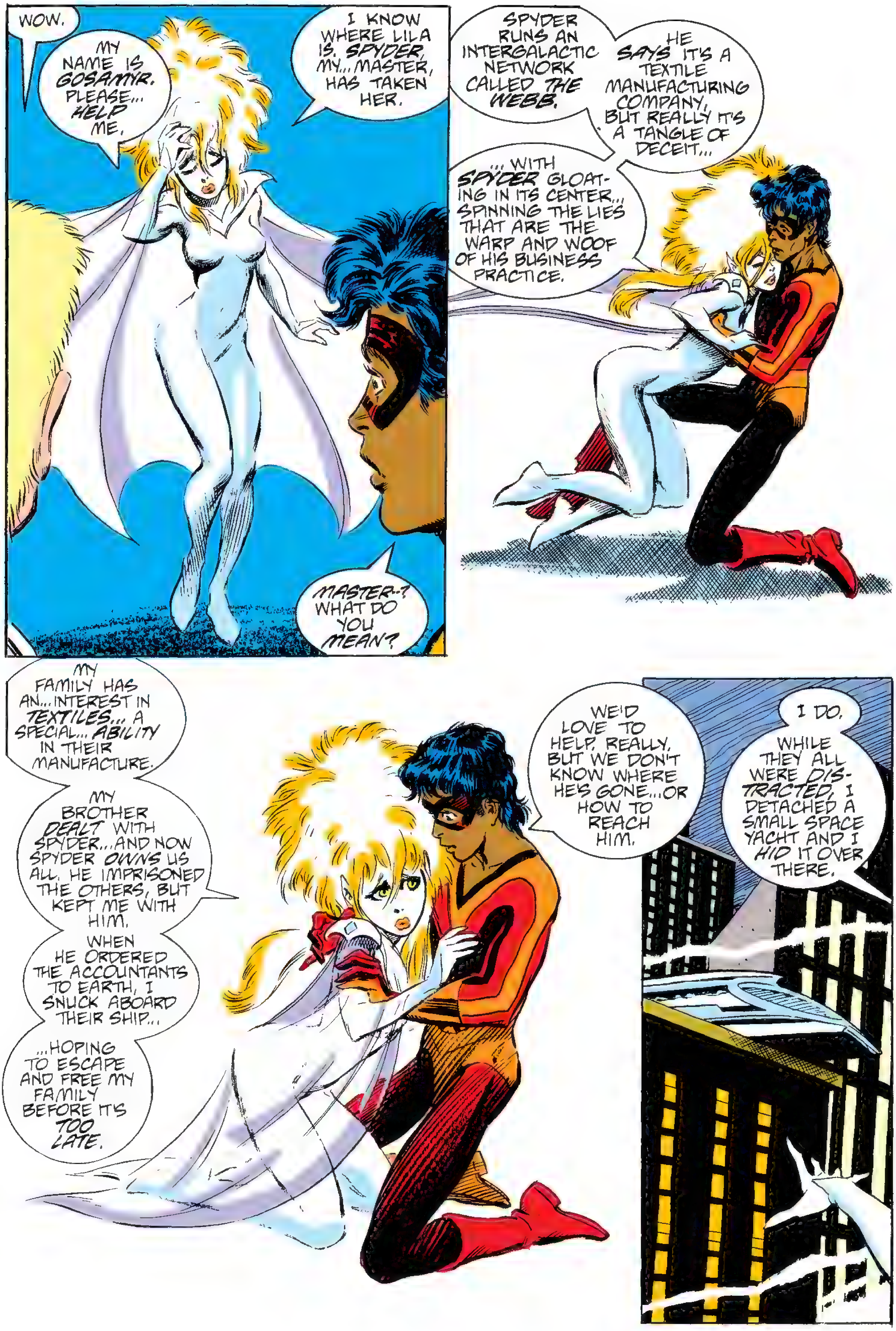

I'M SO AFRAID... THAT IF I DON'T... *EARTH* WILL BECOME LIKE *THAT!*
A PLACE OF MISTS AND *MONSTERS* AND--
THANK GOODNESS YOU *GOT* HERE! WHAT *TOOK* YOU SO LONG?
SAM, ARE YOU ALLRIGHT?
YEAH, SURE, AH'M FINE, BUT--
WHERE'S LILA?
AH DUNNO. EVERYTHING WAS GOIN' SORTA OKAY. *LILA* THOUGHT IT WAS A *BLAST*...
...AND THE *FANS* THOUGHT THESE... *THINGS* WERE PART OF THE SHOW.
THEN ONE OF 'EM FIRED A *SMOKE BOMB* INTA THE AUDIENCE... AN' SUDDENLY FOLKS WERE RUNNIN' AND SCREAMIN'.
AH LOST SIGHT OF LILA...
GOT IT!
CHOK!
BACK TO THE *SHIP!*
THIS OPERATION IS NOW IN THE *BLACK!*
THAT CREEP'S GOT *LILA!*

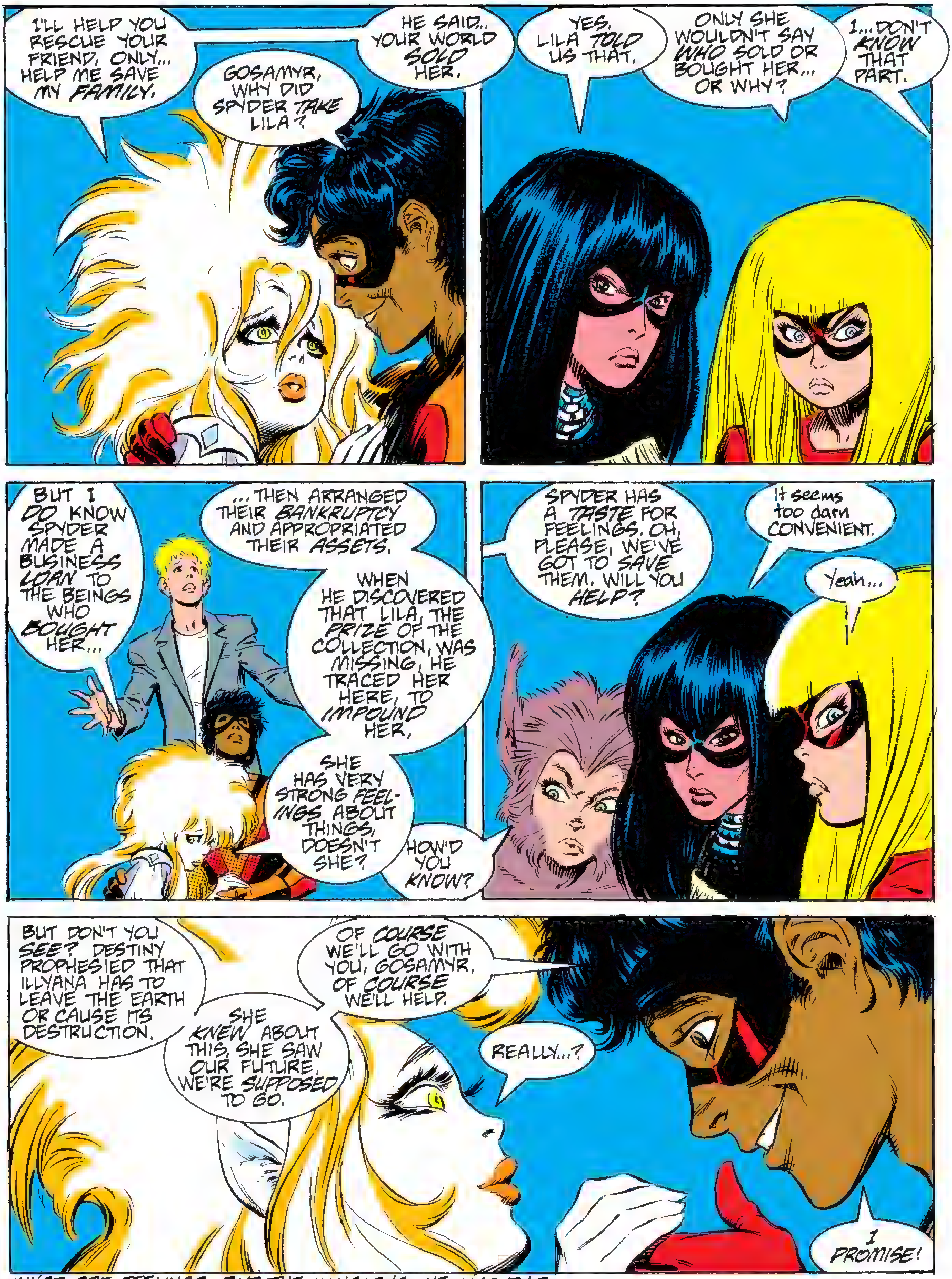

LILA!! NO!
LOOK, SHE GOT COCKY... PLAYING GAMES WHEN SHE COULD'VE ESCAPED!
AND YOU WERE DUMB TO MAKE THAT PROMISE! BUT NOW THE CONCERT IS OVER... BIG TIME!
AND YOU'RE NOT WITH HER NOW! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE--TO THE LETTER!
SO NOW-- GO GET HER!
YEAH--? HEY, YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT!
CEASE! DESIST! YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH THE REQUISITION OF MISAPPROPRIATED PROPERTY.
MISAPPROPRIATED...? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS--LAWYERS?
ACCOUNTANTS! THE IRB! THE INTERGALACTIC RED-TAPE BRIGADE!
THEN TRYING TO FIGHT YOU IS A WASTE OF TIME!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN SCARE YOU OFF!


YE!!!!!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF?
I GUESS YOU'VE GOT GOOD REASON!
MIRAGE, WHAT *IS* THAT THING?
LILA
I DON'T *KNOW.*
BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WOULD TAKE OUT THE ALIENS WHILE *WE* WENT AFTER LILA.
GOOD THOUGHT, BUT IT SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN THRASHING *US!*
CRAASH!
YEAH... TELL ME ABOUT IT
SO GET *RID* OF IT. IT'S *US* THAT IT'S *DELAYING!*
OH, YEAH. RIGHT. SURE WISH I HAD MY *SPEAR* AGAIN!


MY *LITTLE* SPEAR.
WHERE'D THEY *GO?*
THROUGH *THERE!* TO THE *ROOF!*
RUMBLE!
COME...
...ON!
WHERE--?
A SHIP, MAYBE?
THERE'S *SOMETHING* SORT OF ROCKETING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.
ILLYANA, CAN YOU TRANSPORT US *TO* IT?
IT'S SCREENED FROM SIGHT, SOMEHOW, AND MOVING INCREDIBLY *FAST!*
WITHOUT MY *SCRYING GLASS* I COULDN'T MATCH IT'S TRAJECTORY FOR CERTAIN! WE COULD LAND IN *SPACE,* INSTEAD!
I'D PROBABLY *KILL* US ALL!
WHY DID I HAVE TO *WISH UP* THAT STUPID *MONSTER?*
WHY DID I HAVE TO FIGHT *FORGE?* ARROGANCE... IT'S *ARROGANCE!* DESTINY WAS RIGHT. WHY IS EVERTHING I DO ALWAYS SO *WRONG?*
WHY DID I HAVE TO MAKE THAT IDIOTIC *PROMISE*--?
*LAST ISSUE. --BOB


SO... LILA IS MINE! EXCELLENT!
AND THOSE HUMAN CHILDREN... THEY PRACTICALLY BROADCAST THEIR HORROR AND ANGER AND DESPAIR.
TOO YOUNG... TOO YOUNG TO HAVE LEARNED TO TEMPER THEIR FEELINGS...
...I COULD DISTILL FROM THEM AN EXCELLENT BREW. AND THEY APPEAR USEFUL... IN OTHER WAYS.
I REFUSE TO ALLOW THEM ABOARD MY SHIP.
THEY PRESENT A... 97.32055 PERCENT POSSIBILITY OF STRUCTURAL DAMAGE... UNTIL, OF COURSE, PROPER RESTRAINTS CAN BE DESIGNED.
I WANT THEM. I NEED THEM.
BUT HOW TO ARRANGE THAT THEY COME ALONG PEACEFULLY... VOLUNTARILY... AND, OF COURSE, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE...?
AH... A BLESSING ON YOU, TINCTURE OF GENEROSITY!
THIS IS MY ANSWER TO MY CRITICS!
PROOF THAT FINER FEELINGS ONLY EXPAND THE PROFIT POTENTIAL THE UNIVERSE OFFERS!
"I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN LITTLE GOSAMYR."
OH, PLEASE... YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME...!
WHO--?!


WOW.
MY NAME IS *GOSAMYR.* PLEASE... *HELP* ME.
I KNOW WHERE LILA IS. *SPYDER,* MY... MASTER, HAS TAKEN HER.
MASTER-? WHAT DO YOU *MEAN?*
SPYDER RUNS AN INTERGALACTIC NETWORK CALLED *THE WEBB.*
HE *SAYS* IT'S A TEXTILE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BUT REALLY IT'S A TANGLE OF DECEIT...
...WITH *SPYDER* GLOATING IN ITS CENTER... SPINNING THE LIES THAT ARE THE WARP AND WOOF OF HIS BUSINESS PRACTICE.
MY FAMILY HAS AN... INTEREST IN *TEXTILES...* A SPECIAL... *ABILITY* IN THEIR MANUFACTURE.
MY BROTHER *DEALT* WITH SPYDER... AND NOW SPYDER *OWNS* US ALL. HE IMPRISONED THE OTHERS, BUT KEPT ME WITH HIM.
WHEN HE ORDERED THE ACCOUNTANTS TO EARTH, I SNUCK ABOARD THEIR SHIP...
...HOPING TO ESCAPE AND FREE MY FAMILY BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE.*
WE'D LOVE TO HELP, REALLY, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE... OR HOW TO REACH HIM.
I DO.
WHILE THEY ALL WERE *DISTRACTED,* I DETACHED A SMALL SPACE YACHT AND I *HID* IT OVER THERE.


I'LL HELP YOU RESCUE YOUR FRIEND, ONLY... HELP ME SAVE MY *FAMILY*.
GOSAMYR, WHY DID SPYDER *TAKE* LILA?
HE SAID... YOUR WORLD *SOLD* HER.
YES, LILA *TOLD* US THAT.
ONLY SHE WOULDN'T SAY *WHO* SOLD OR BOUGHT HER... OR WHY?
I... DON'T *KNOW* THAT PART.
BUT I *DO* KNOW SPYDER MADE A BUSINESS *LOAN* TO THE BEINGS WHO *BOUGHT* HER...
...THEN ARRANGED THEIR *BANKRUPTCY* AND APPROPRIATED THEIR *ASSETS*.
WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT LILA, THE *PRIZE* OF THE COLLECTION, WAS MISSING, HE TRACED HER HERE, TO *IMPOUND* HER.
SHE HAS VERY STRONG *FEELINGS* ABOUT THINGS, DOESN'T SHE?
HOW'D YOU *KNOW*?
SPYDER HAS A *TASTE* FOR FEELINGS. OH, PLEASE, WE'VE GOT TO *SAVE* THEM. WILL YOU *HELP*?
It seems too darn CONVENIENT.
Yeah...
BUT DON'T YOU *SEE*? DESTINY PROPHESIED THAT ILLYANA HAS TO LEAVE THE EARTH OR CAUSE ITS DESTRUCTION.
SHE *KNEW* ABOUT THIS. SHE SAW OUR FUTURE. WE'RE *SUPPOSED* TO GO.
OF *COURSE* WE'LL GO WITH YOU, GOSAMYR. OF *COURSE* WE'LL HELP.
REALLY...?
I PROMISE!

WHAT ARE FEELINGS, BUT THE ILLUSIONS WE LIVE BY?

SHATTERED ILLUSIONS!

DON'T MISS A SHARD OF IT!!!

MARVEL
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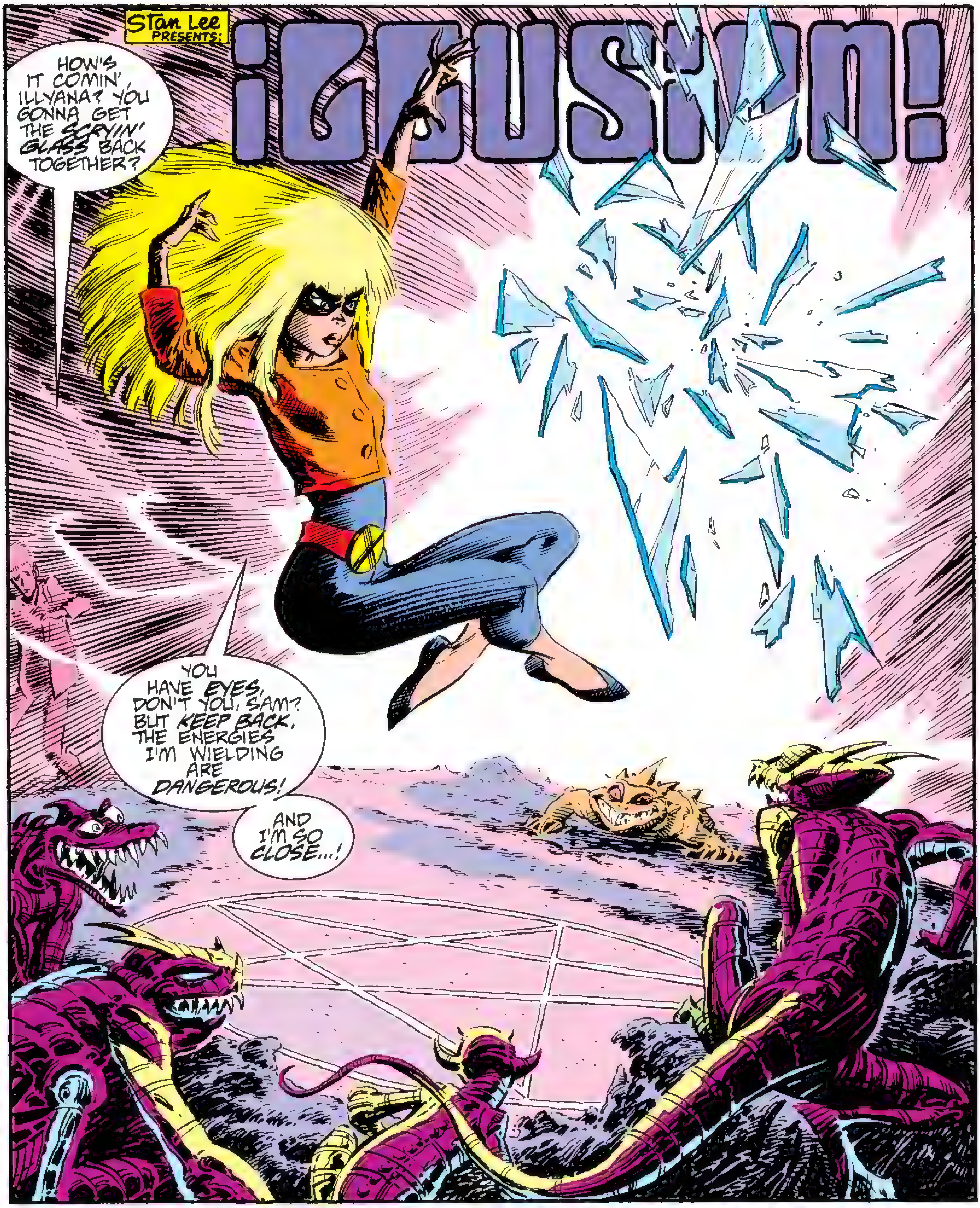
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GOSAMYR COMES A'CALLING

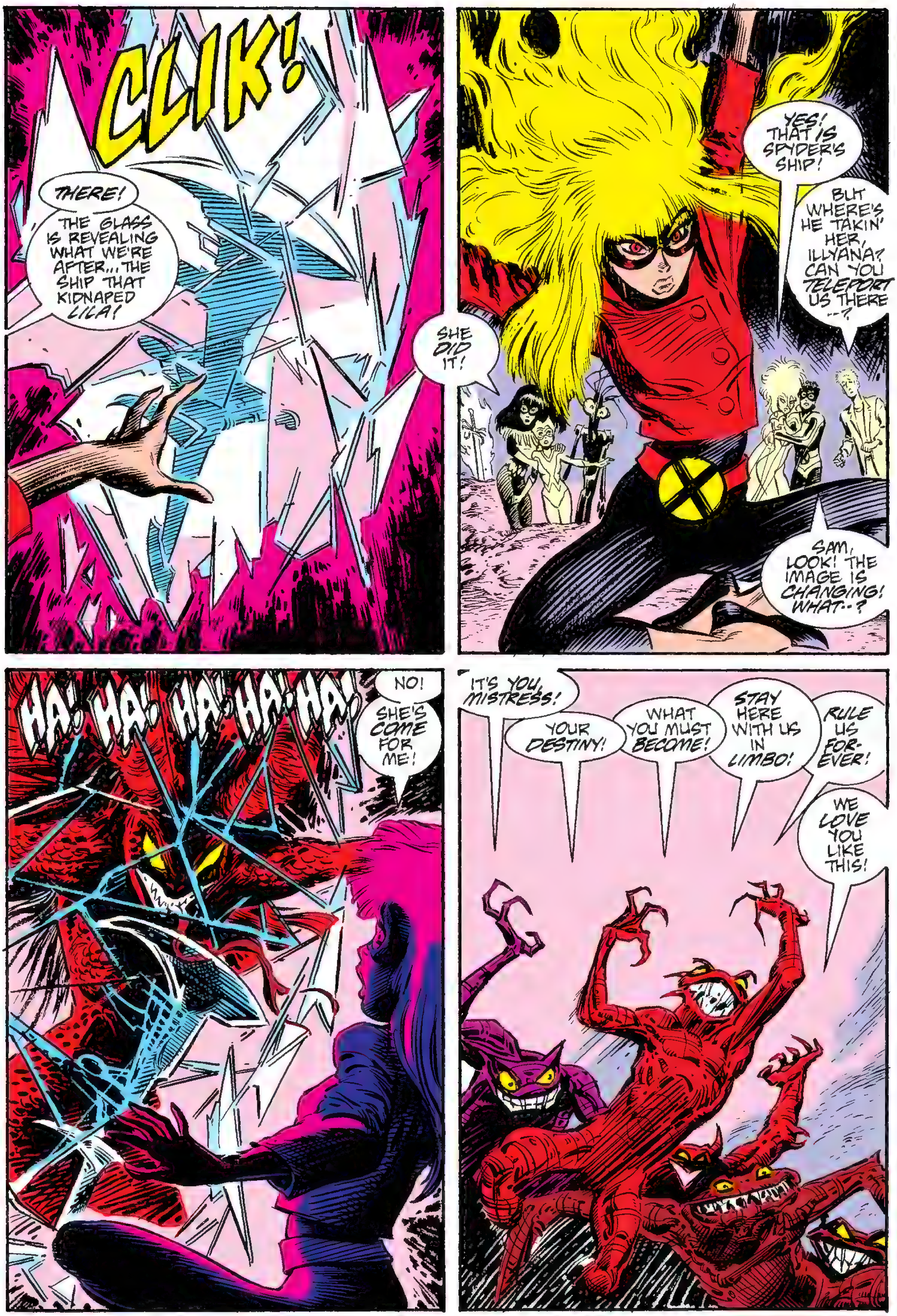
*LIMBO. AN ELDRITCH DIMENSION RULED BY A WAYWARD WITCH-CHILD WHO, NOW, HOVERS OVER AN INVERTED **PENTAGRAM**, TRYING WITH ALL HER HEART AND SOUL TO FIT TOGETHER THE SHATTERED PIECES OF HER LIFE...*

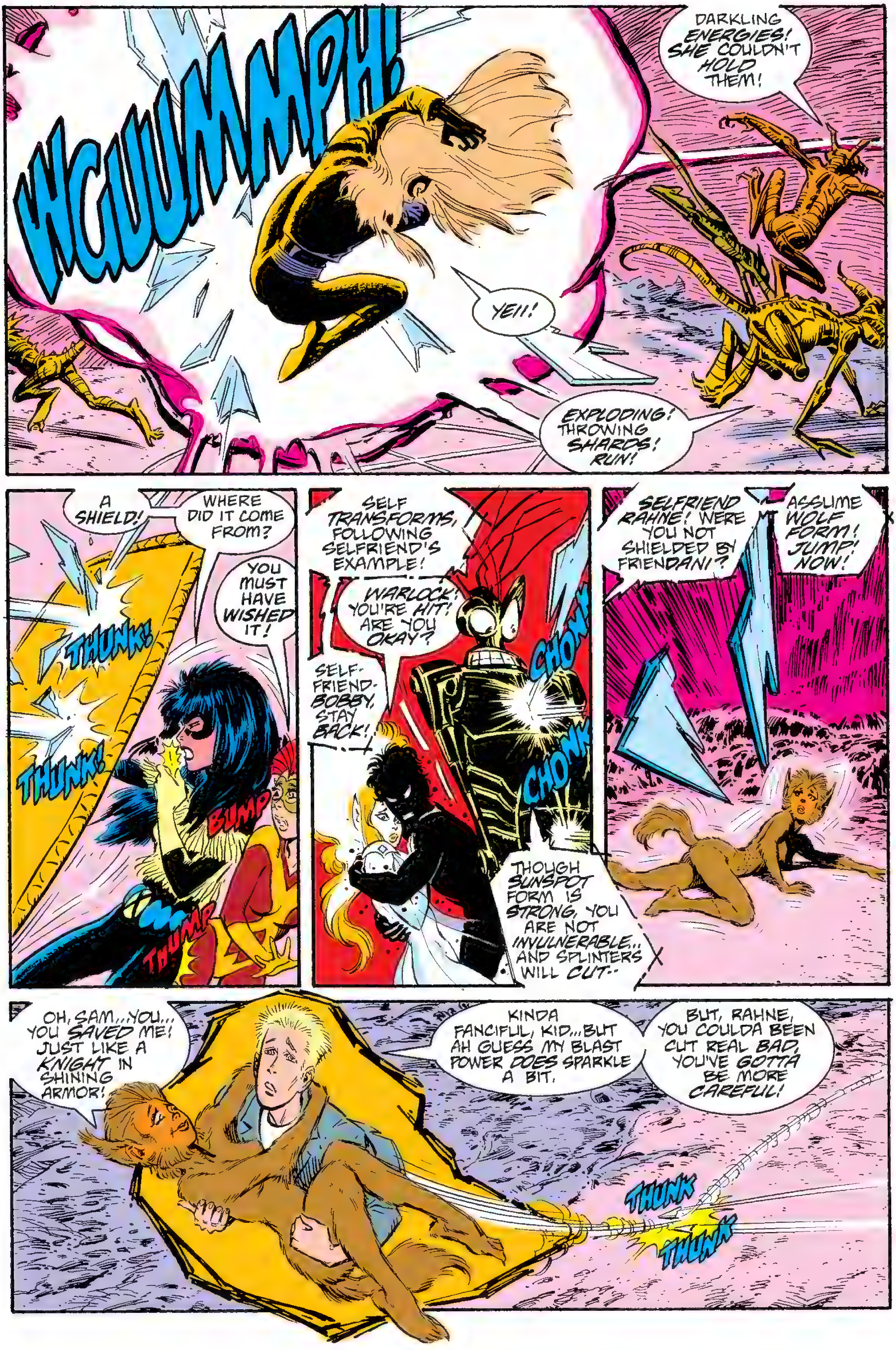

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
ILLUSION!
HOW'S IT COMIN', ILLYANA? YOU GONNA GET THE *SCRYIN' GLASS* BACK TOGETHER?
YOU HAVE *EYES*, DON'T YOU, SAM? BUT *KEEP BACK*. THE ENERGIES I'M WIELDING ARE *DANGEROUS!*
AND I'M SO *CLOSE*...!

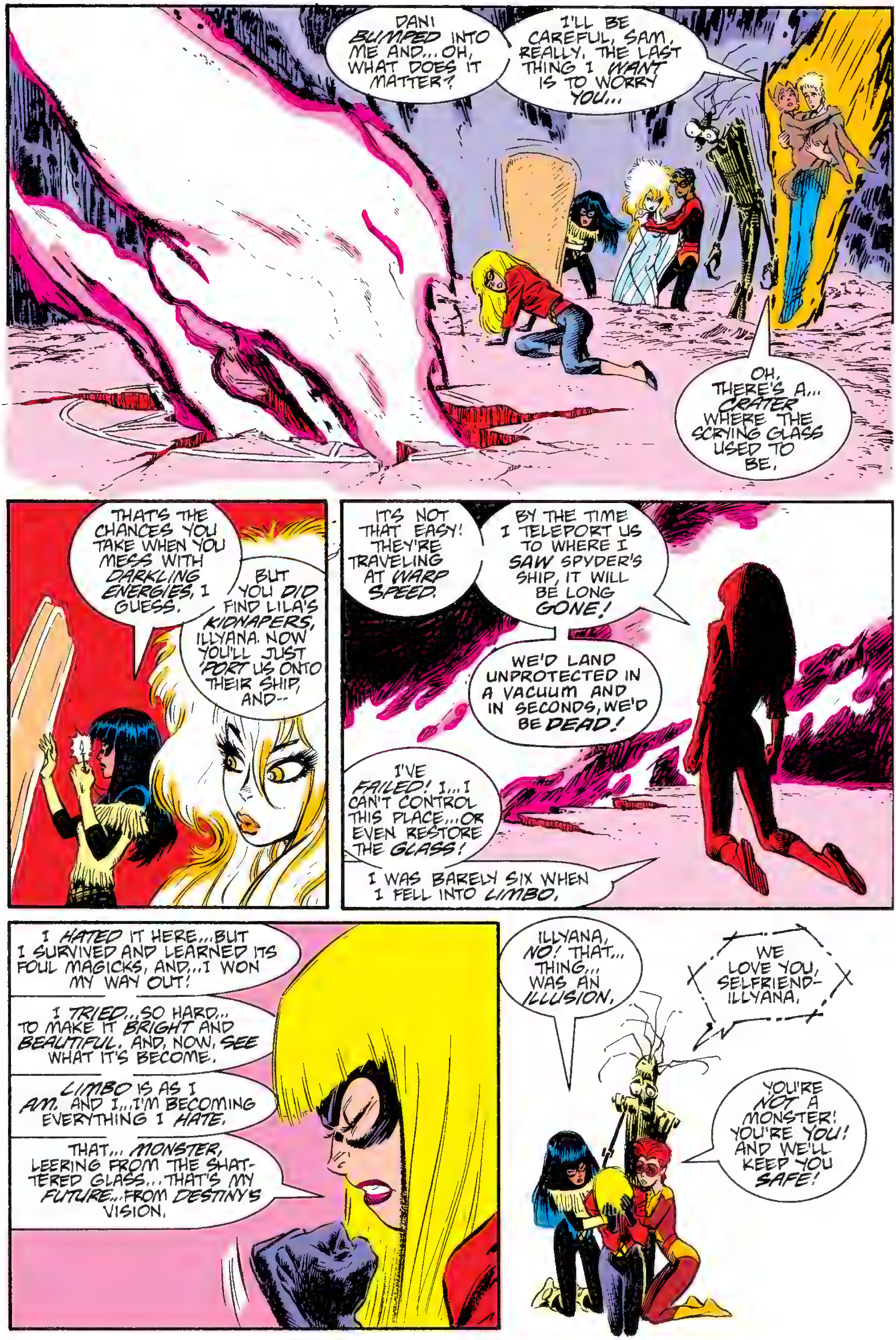
Louise SIMONSON writer ~ **Bret BLEVINS** artist ~ **Ken BRUZENAK** letterer

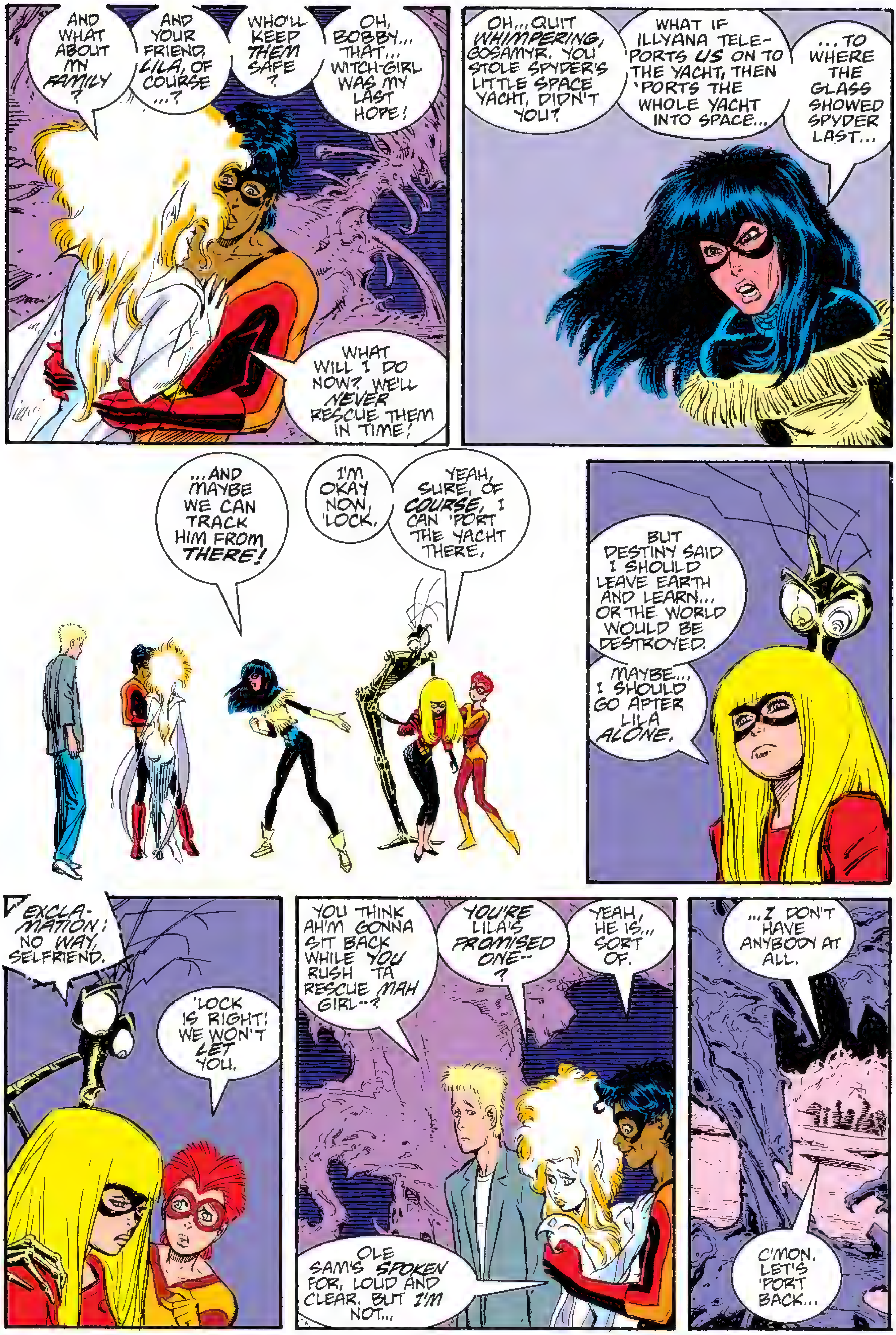
Glynis OLIVER colorist

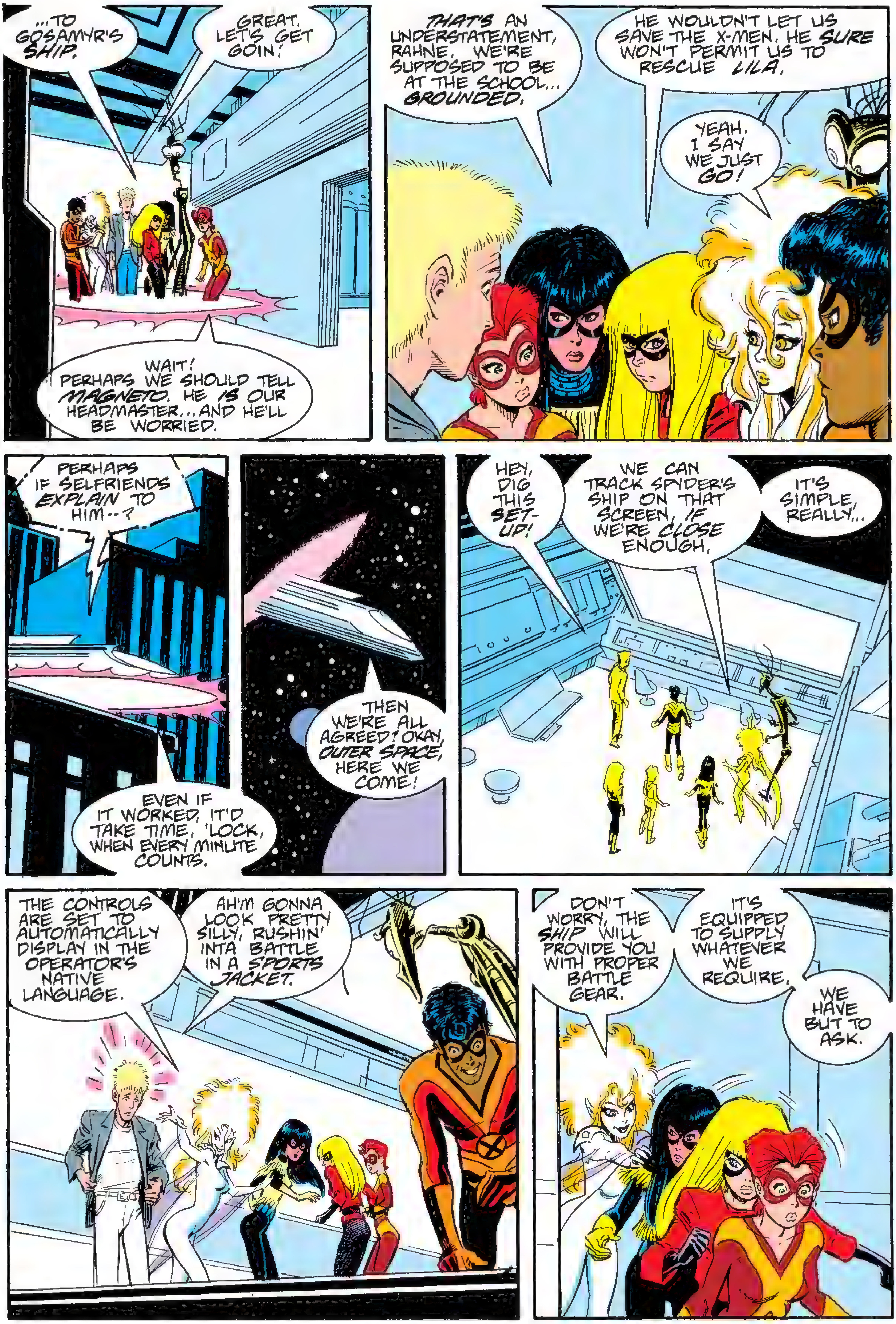
Bob HARRAS editor ~ **Tom DeFALCO** chief

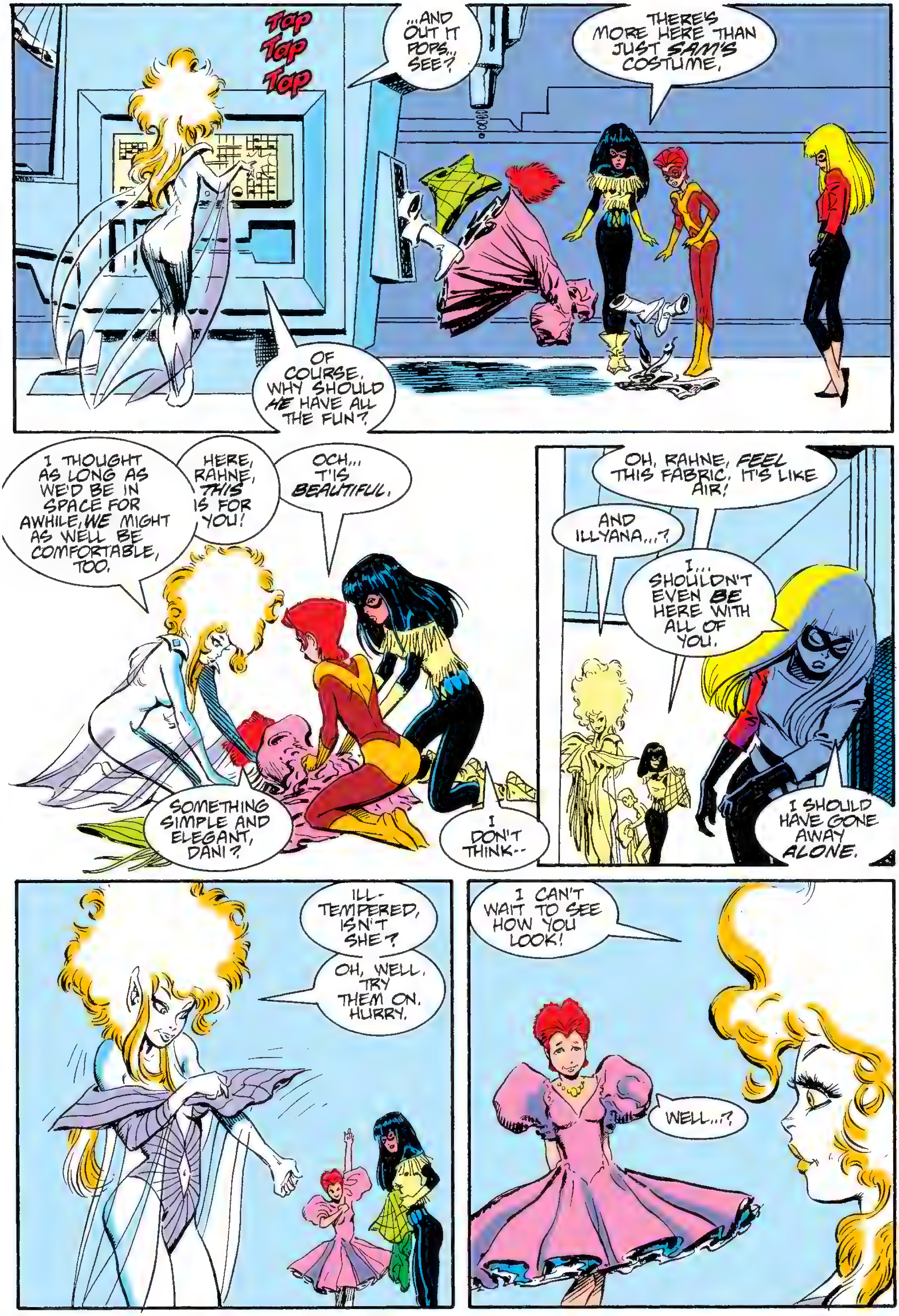

CLIK!
THERE!
THE GLASS IS REVEALING WHAT WE'RE AFTER... THE SHIP THAT KIDNAPED LILA!
SHE DID IT!
YES! THAT IS SPYDER'S SHIP!
BUT WHERE'S HE TAKIN' HER, ILLYANA? CAN YOU TELEPORT US THERE--?
SAM, LOOK! THE IMAGE IS CHANGING! WHAT--?
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
NO!
SHE'S COME FOR ME!
IT'S YOU, MISTRESS!
YOUR DESTINY!
WHAT YOU MUST BECOME!
STAY HERE WITH US IN LIMBO!
RULE US FOR-EVER!
WE LOVE YOU LIKE THIS!

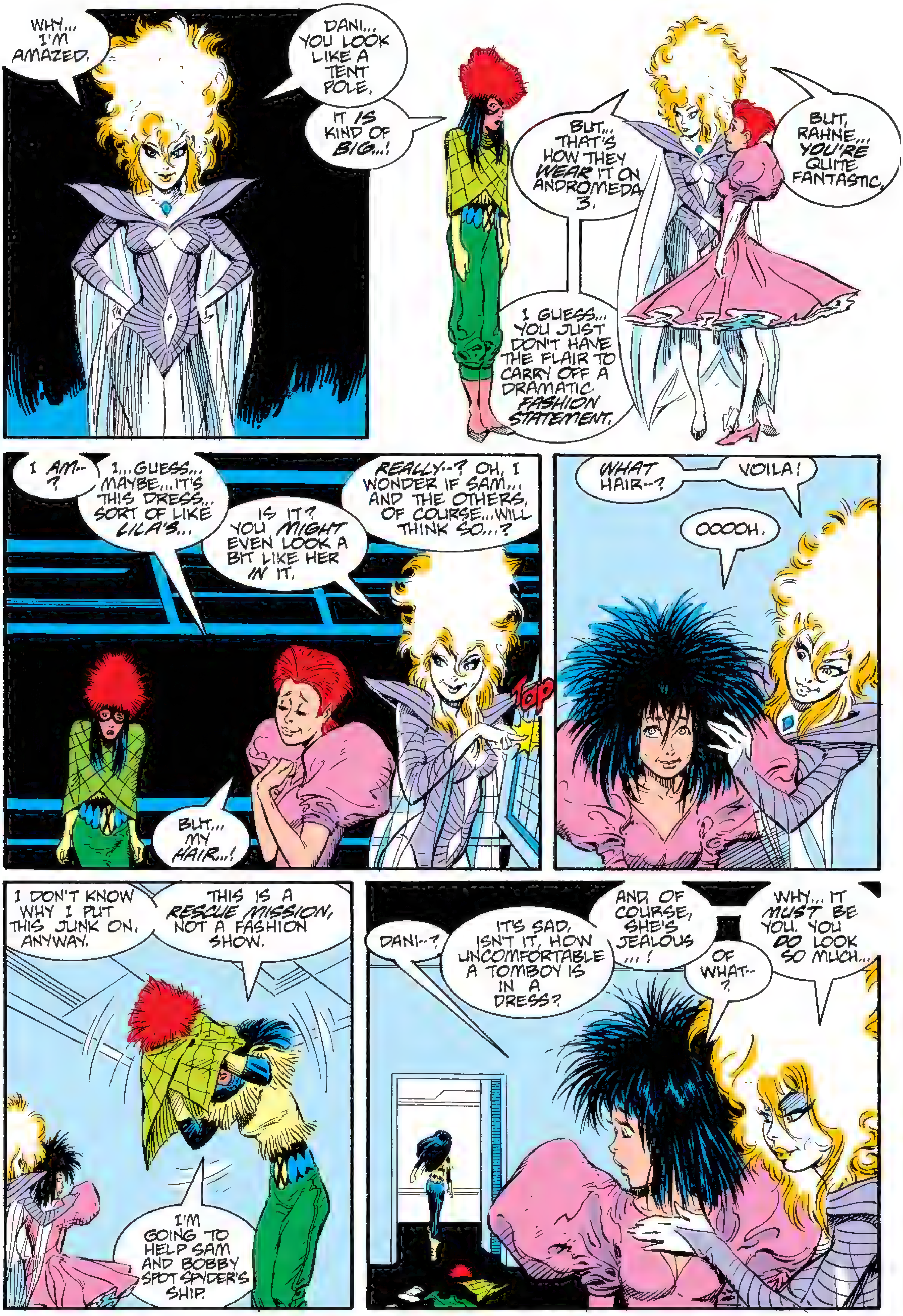

WHUUMMPH!
DARKLING ENERGIES! SHE COULDN'T HOLD THEM!
YEII!
EXPLODING! THROWING SHARDS! RUN!
A SHIELD!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
YOU MUST HAVE WISHED IT!
THUNK!
THUNK!
BUMP
THUMP
SELF TRANSFORMS, FOLLOWING SELFRIEND'S EXAMPLE!
WARLOCK! YOU'RE HIT! ARE YOU OKAY?
SELF-FRIEND-BOBBY, STAY BACK!
CHONK
CHONK
THOUGH SUNSPOT FORM IS STRONG, YOU ARE NOT INVULNERABLE... AND SPLINTERS WILL CUT--
SELFRIEND RAHNE! WERE YOU NOT SHIELDED BY FRIENDANI?
ASSUME WOLF FORM! JUMP! NOW!
OH, SAM... YOU... YOU SAVED ME! JUST LIKE A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!
KINDA FANCIFUL, KID... BUT AH GUESS MY BLAST POWER DOES SPARKLE A BIT.
BUT, RAHNE, YOU COULDA BEEN CUT REAL BAD. YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL!
THUNK
THUNK

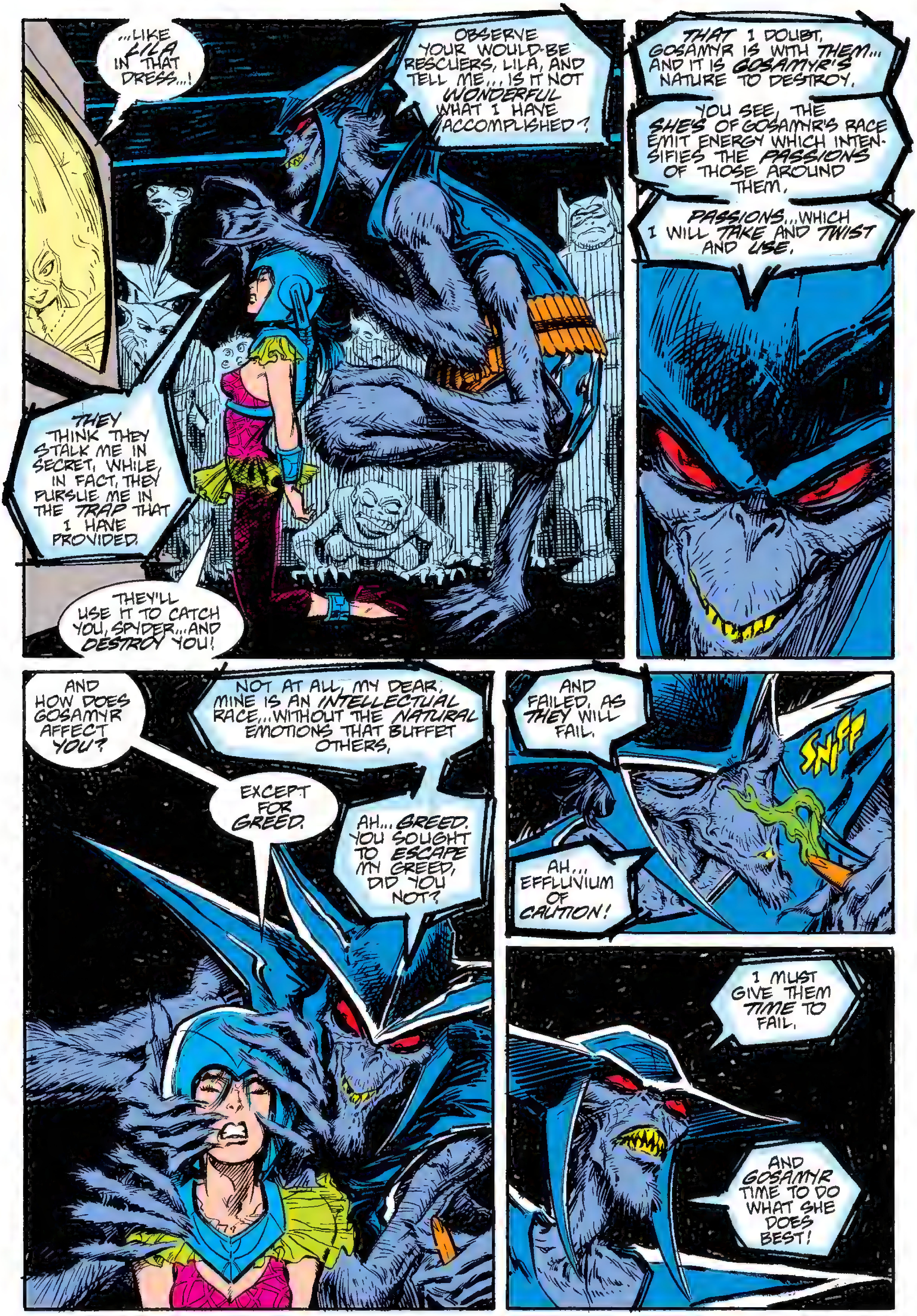

DANI *BUMPED* INTO ME AND... OH, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I'LL BE CAREFUL, SAM, REALLY. THE LAST THING I *WANT* IS TO WORRY *YOU*...
OH, THERE'S A... *CRATER* WHERE THE SCRYING GLASS USED TO BE.
THAT'S THE CHANCES YOU TAKE WHEN YOU *MESS* WITH *DARKLING ENERGIES*, I GUESS.
BUT YOU *DID* FIND LILA'S *KIDNAPERS*, ILLYANA. NOW YOU'LL JUST *'PORT* US ONTO THEIR SHIP, AND--
IT'S NOT THAT EASY! THEY'RE TRAVELING AT *WARP SPEED*.
BY THE TIME I TELEPORT US TO WHERE I *SAW* SPYDER'S SHIP, IT WILL BE LONG *GONE!*
WE'D LAND UNPROTECTED IN A VACUUM AND IN SECONDS, WE'D BE *DEAD!*
I'VE *FAILED!* I... I CAN'T CONTROL THIS PLACE... OR EVEN RESTORE THE *GLASS!*
I WAS BARELY SIX WHEN I FELL INTO *LIMBO*.
I *HATED* IT HERE... BUT I SURVIVED AND LEARNED ITS FOUL MAGICKS, AND... I WON MY WAY OUT!
I *TRIED*... SO HARD... TO MAKE IT *BRIGHT* AND *BEAUTIFUL*. AND, NOW, *SEE* WHAT IT'S BECOME.
LIMBO IS AS I *AM*. AND I... I'M BECOMING EVERYTHING I *HATE*.
THAT... *MONSTER*, LEERING FROM THE SHATTERED GLASS... THAT'S MY *FUTURE*... FROM *DESTINY'S* VISION.
ILLYANA, *NO!* THAT... THING... WAS AN *ILLUSION*.
WE LOVE YOU, SELFRIEND-ILLYANA.
YOU'RE *NOT* A MONSTER! YOU'RE *YOU!* AND WE'LL KEEP YOU *SAFE!*

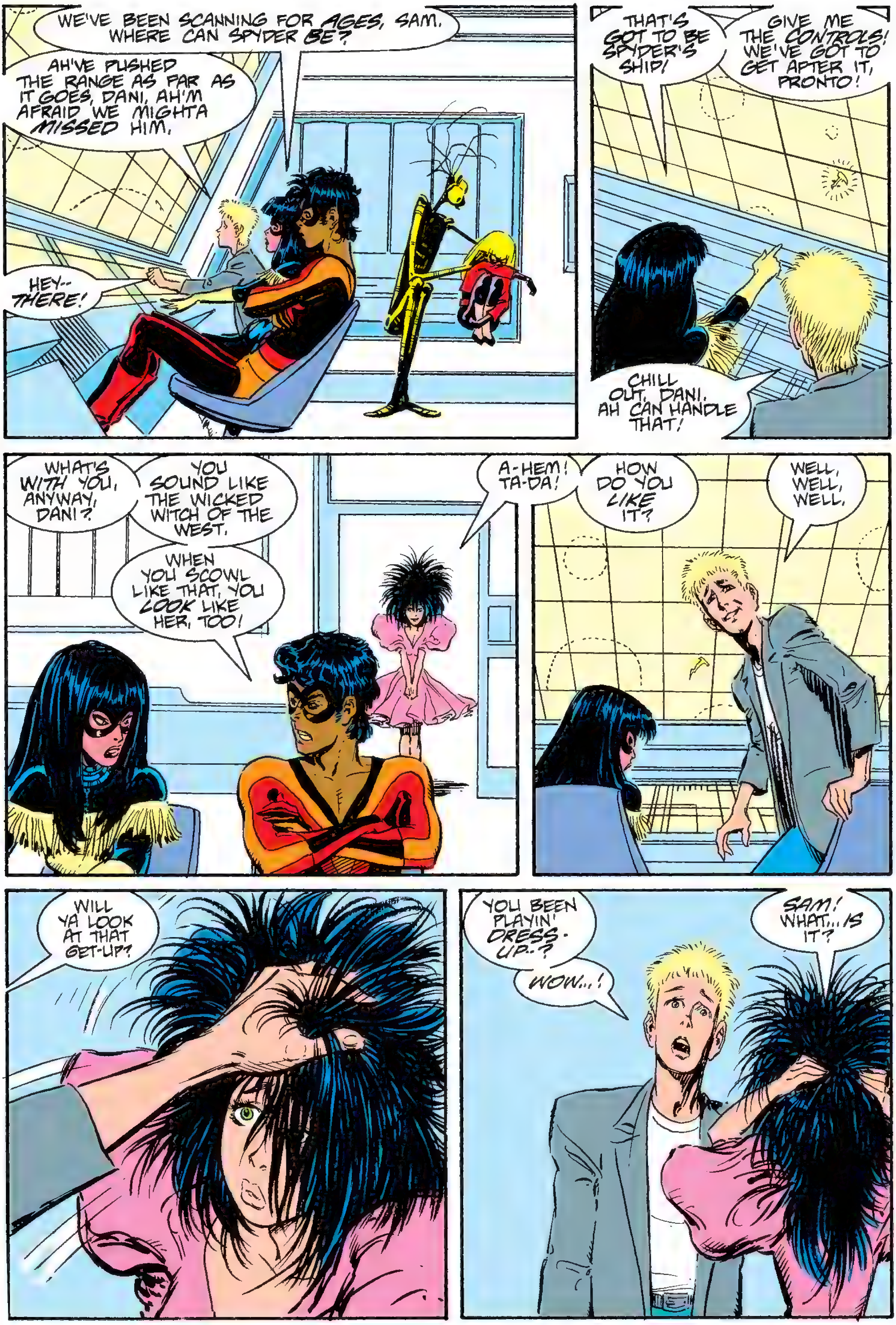

AND WHAT ABOUT MY FAMILY?
AND YOUR FRIEND, LILA, OF COURSE...?
WHO'LL KEEP THEM SAFE?
OH, BOBBY... THAT... WITCH-GIRL WAS MY LAST HOPE!
WHAT WILL I DO NOW? WE'LL NEVER RESCUE THEM IN TIME!
OH... QUIT WHIMPERING, GOSAMYR. YOU STOLE SPYDER'S LITTLE SPACE YACHT, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT IF ILLYANA TELEPORTS US ON TO THE YACHT, THEN 'PORTS THE WHOLE YACHT INTO SPACE...
...TO WHERE THE GLASS SHOWED SPYDER LAST...
...AND MAYBE WE CAN TRACK HIM FROM THERE!
I'M OKAY NOW, 'LOCK.
YEAH, SURE, OF COURSE, I CAN 'PORT THE YACHT THERE.
BUT DESTINY SAID I SHOULD LEAVE EARTH AND LEARN... OR THE WORLD WOULD BE DESTROYED.
MAYBE... I SHOULD GO AFTER LILA ALONE.
EXCLAMATION: NO WAY, SELFRIEND.
'LOCK IS RIGHT! WE WON'T LET YOU.
YOU THINK AH'M GONNA SIT BACK WHILE YOU RUSH TA RESCUE MAH GIRL--?
YOU'RE LILA'S PROMISED ONE--?
YEAH, HE IS... SORT OF.
OLE SAM'S SPOKEN FOR, LOUD AND CLEAR. BUT I'M NOT...
...I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY AT ALL.
C'MON. LET'S 'PORT BACK...

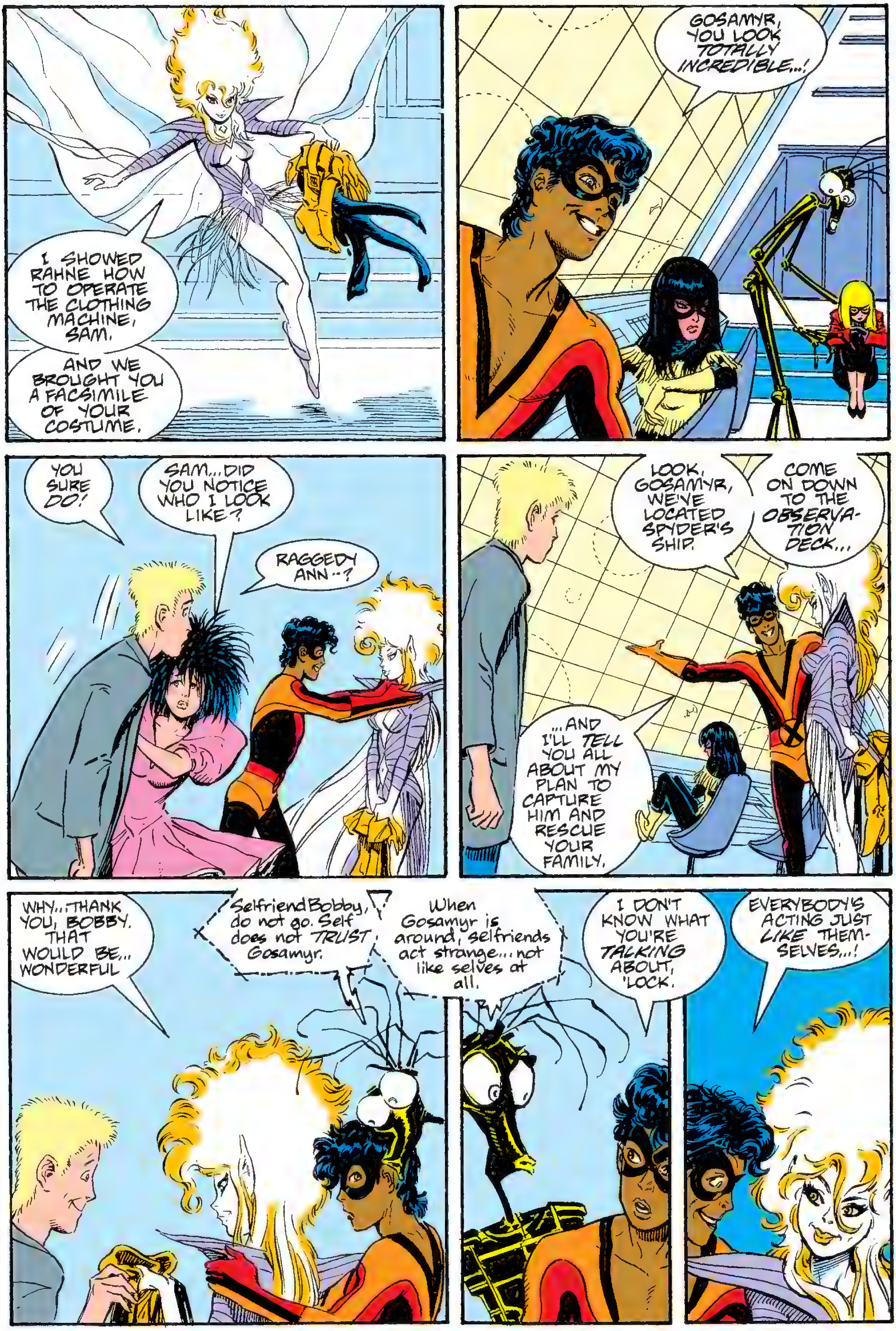

...TO GOSAMYR'S *SHIP.*
GREAT. LET'S GET GOIN'.
WAIT! PERHAPS WE SHOULD TELL *MAGNETO.* HE *IS* OUR HEADMASTER... AND HE'LL BE WORRIED.
THAT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT, RAHNE. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE SCHOOL... *GROUNDED.*
HE WOULDN'T LET US SAVE THE X-MEN. HE *SURE* WON'T PERMIT US TO RESCUE *LILA.*
YEAH. I SAY WE JUST *GO!*
PERHAPS IF SELFRIENDS *EXPLAIN* TO HIM--?
EVEN IF IT WORKED, IT'D TAKE TIME, 'LOCK, WHEN EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.
THEN WE'RE ALL AGREED? OKAY, *OUTER SPACE,* HERE WE COME!
HEY, DIG THIS *SET-UP!*
WE CAN TRACK SPYDER'S SHIP ON THAT SCREEN, *IF* WE'RE *CLOSE* ENOUGH.
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY...
THE CONTROLS ARE SET TO AUTOMATICALLY DISPLAY IN THE OPERATOR'S NATIVE LANGUAGE.
AH'M GONNA LOOK PRETTY SILLY, RUSHIN' INTA BATTLE IN A *SPORTS JACKET.*
DON'T WORRY, THE *SHIP* WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH PROPER BATTLE GEAR.
IT'S EQUIPPED TO SUPPLY WHATEVER WE REQUIRE.
WE HAVE BUT TO ASK.

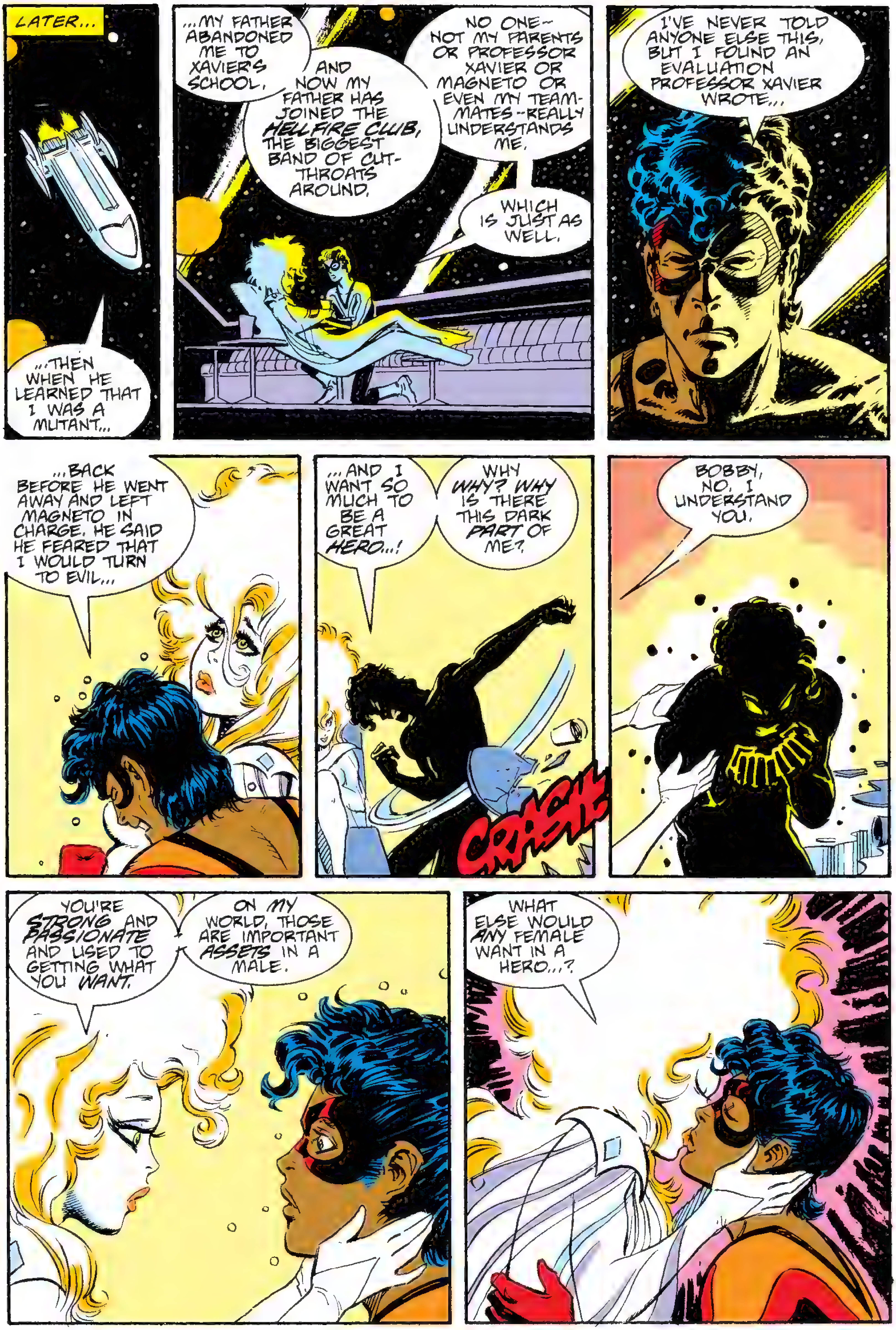

Tap Tap Tap
...AND OUT IT POPS.. SEE?
THERE'S MORE HERE THAN JUST *SAM'S* COSTUME.
OF COURSE. WHY SHOULD *HE* HAVE ALL THE FUN?
I THOUGHT AS LONG AS WE'D BE IN SPACE FOR AWHILE, *WE* MIGHT AS WELL BE COMFORTABLE, TOO.
HERE, RAHNE, *THIS* IS FOR YOU!
OCH... T'IS *BEAUTIFUL*.
SOMETHING SIMPLE AND ELEGANT, DANI?
I DON'T THINK--
OH, RAHNE, *FEEL* THIS FABRIC. IT'S LIKE AIR!
AND ILLYANA...?
I... SHOULDN'T EVEN *BE* HERE WITH ALL OF YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE GONE AWAY *ALONE*.
ILL-TEMPERED, ISN'T SHE?
OH, WELL. TRY THEM ON. HURRY.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK!
WELL...?

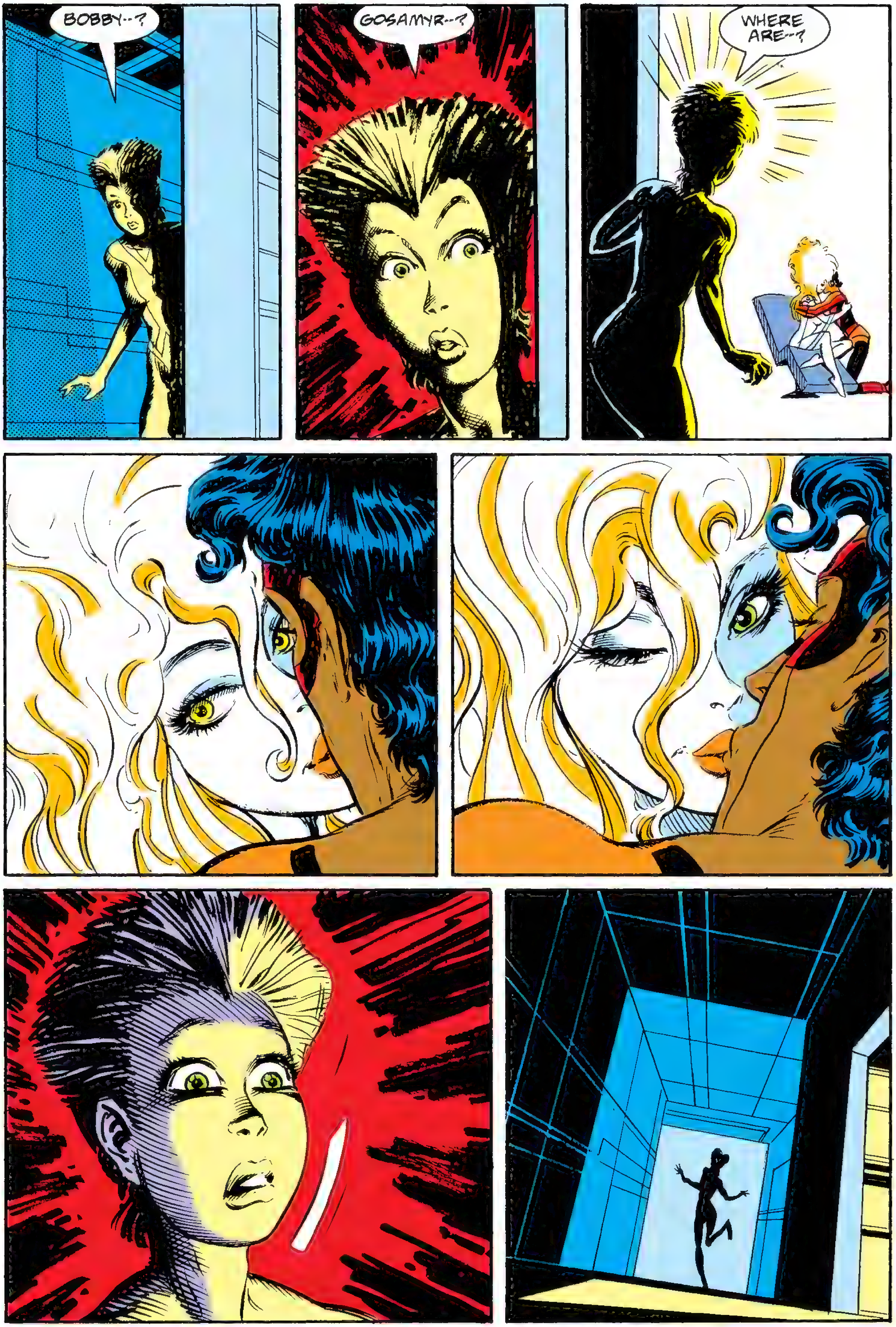

WHY... I'M AMAZED.
DANI... YOU LOOK LIKE A TENT POLE.
IT *IS* KIND OF *BIG*...!
BUT... THAT'S HOW THEY *WEAR* IT ON ANDROMEDA 3.
I GUESS... YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE FLAIR TO CARRY OFF A DRAMATIC *FASHION STATEMENT*.
BUT, RAHNE... *YOU'RE* QUITE FANTASTIC.
I *AM*--?
I... GUESS... MAYBE... IT'S THIS DRESS... SORT OF LIKE *LILA'S*...
IS IT? YOU *MIGHT* EVEN LOOK A BIT LIKE HER *IN* IT.
REALLY--? OH, I WONDER IF SAM... AND THE OTHERS, OF COURSE... WILL THINK SO...?
BUT... MY *HAIR*...!
TAP
WHAT HAIR--?
VOILA!
OOOOH.
I DON'T KNOW WHY I PUT THIS JUNK ON, ANYWAY.
THIS IS A *RESCUE MISSION*, NOT A FASHION SHOW.
I'M GOING TO HELP SAM AND BOBBY SPOT SPYDER'S SHIP.
DANI--?
IT'S SAD, ISN'T IT, HOW UNCOMFORTABLE A TOMBOY IS IN A DRESS?
AND, OF COURSE, SHE'S JEALOUS...!
OF WHAT--?
WHY... IT *MUST* BE YOU. YOU *DO* LOOK SO MUCH...

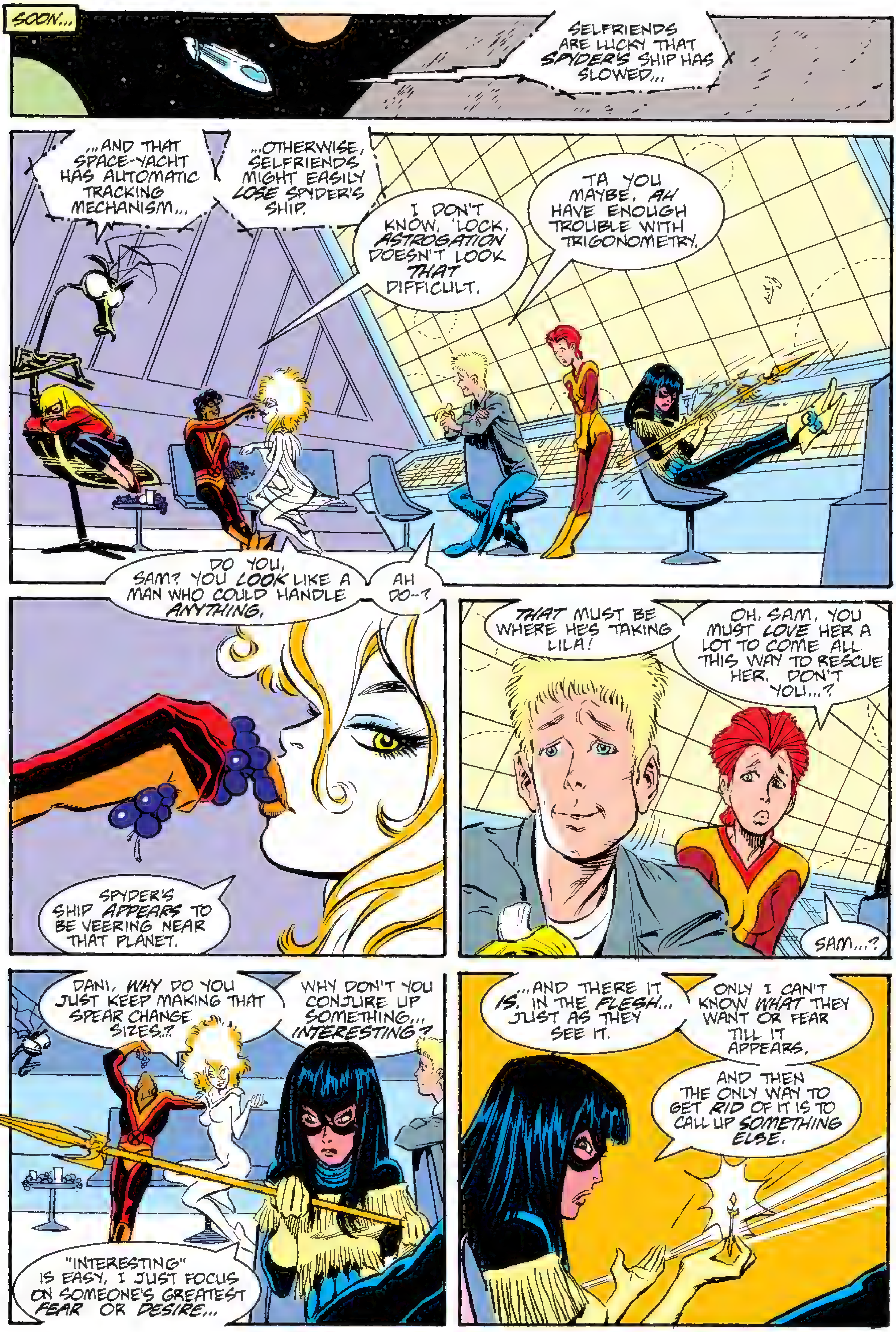

...LIKE LILA IN THAT DRESS...!
OBSERVE YOUR WOULD-BE RESCUERS, LILA, AND TELL ME... IS IT NOT WONDERFUL WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED?
THEY THINK THEY STALK ME IN SECRET, WHILE, IN FACT, THEY PURSUE ME IN THE TRAP THAT I HAVE PROVIDED.
THEY'LL USE IT TO CATCH YOU, SPYDER... AND DESTROY YOU!
THAT I DOUBT. GOSAMYR IS WITH THEM... AND IT IS GOSAMYR'S NATURE TO DESTROY.
YOU SEE, THE SHE'S OF GOSAMYR'S RACE EMIT ENERGY WHICH INTENSIFIES THE PASSIONS OF THOSE AROUND THEM.
PASSIONS... WHICH I WILL TAKE AND TWIST AND USE.
AND HOW DOES GOSAMYR AFFECT YOU?
NOT AT ALL, MY DEAR. MINE IS AN INTELLECTUAL RACE... WITHOUT THE NATURAL EMOTIONS THAT BUFFET OTHERS.
EXCEPT FOR GREED.
AH... GREED. YOU SOUGHT TO ESCAPE MY GREED, DID YOU NOT?
AND FAILED, AS THEY WILL FAIL.
SNIFF
AH... EFFLUVIUM OF CAUTION!
I MUST GIVE THEM TIME TO FAIL.
AND GOSAMYR TIME TO DO WHAT SHE DOES BEST!

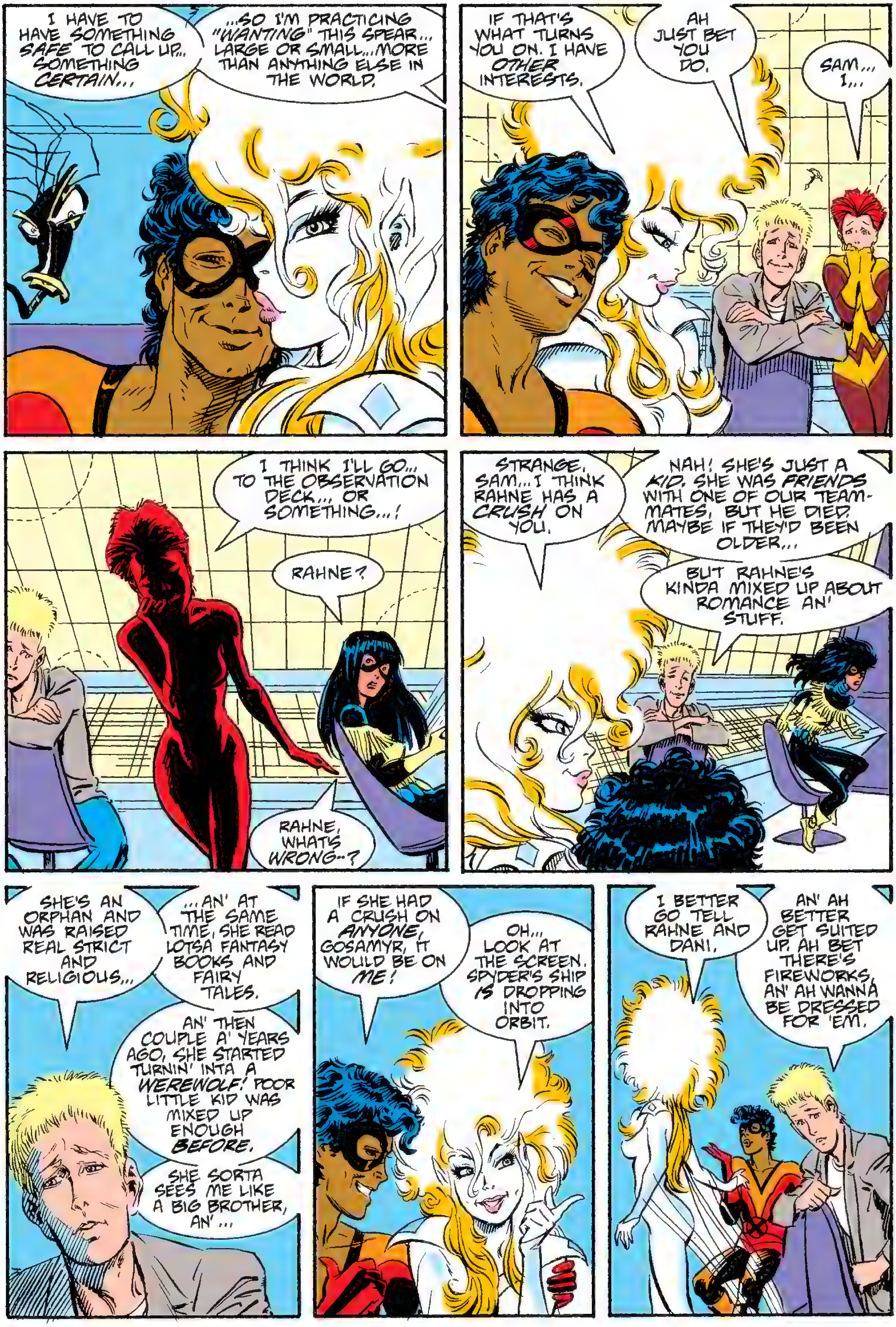

WE'VE BEEN SCANNING FOR *AGES*, SAM. WHERE CAN SPYDER *BE*?
AH'VE PUSHED THE RANGE AS FAR AS IT GOES, DANI. AH'M AFRAID WE MIGHTA *MISSED* HIM.
HEY-- *THERE!*
THAT'S GOT TO BE SPYDER'S SHIP!
GIVE ME THE *CONTROLS!* WE'VE GOT TO GET AFTER IT, PRONTO!
CHILL OUT, DANI. AH CAN HANDLE THAT!
WHAT'S *WITH* YOU, ANYWAY, DANI?
YOU SOUND LIKE THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST.
WHEN YOU SCOWL LIKE THAT, YOU *LOOK* LIKE HER, TOO!
A-HEM! TA-DA!
HOW DO YOU *LIKE* IT?
WELL, WELL, WELL.
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT GET-UP?
YOU BEEN PLAYIN' *DRESS-UP*..?
WOW...!
SAM! WHAT... *IS* IT?

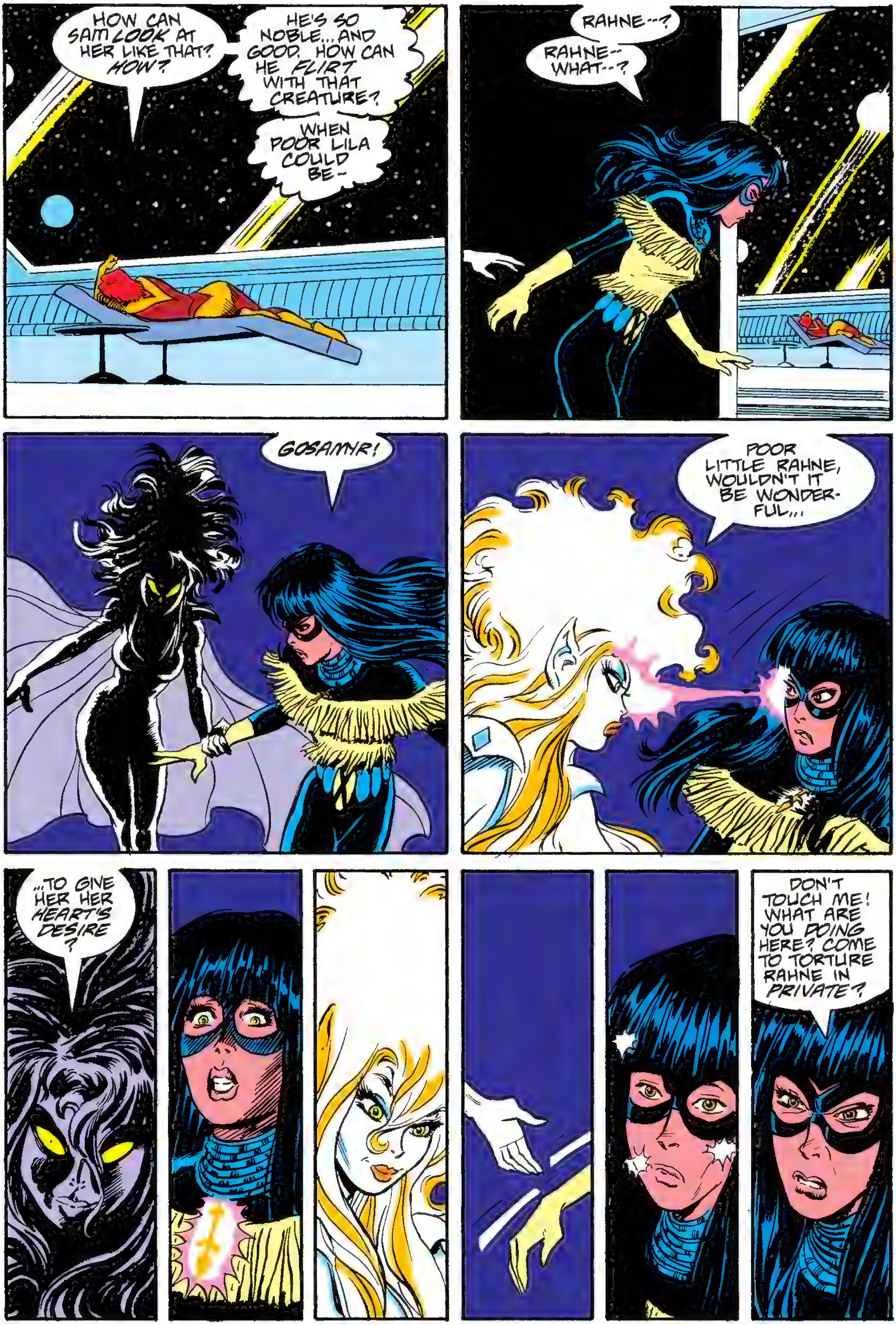

I SHOWED RAHNE HOW TO OPERATE THE CLOTHING MACHINE, SAM.
AND WE BROUGHT YOU A FACSIMILE OF YOUR COSTUME.
GOSAMYR, YOU LOOK *TOTALLY INCREDIBLE*...!
YOU SURE *DO*!
SAM...DID YOU NOTICE WHO I LOOK LIKE?
RAGGEDY ANN--?
LOOK, GOSAMYR, WE'VE LOCATED SPYDER'S SHIP.
COME ON DOWN TO THE *OBSERVATION DECK*...
...AND I'LL *TELL* YOU ALL ABOUT MY PLAN TO CAPTURE HIM AND RESCUE YOUR FAMILY.
WHY...THANK YOU, BOBBY. THAT WOULD BE...WONDERFUL
Selfriend Bobby, do not go. Self does not *TRUST* Gosamyr.
When Gosamyr is around, selfriends act strange... not like selves at all.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT, 'LOCK.
EVERYBODY'S ACTING JUST *LIKE* THEMSELVES...!

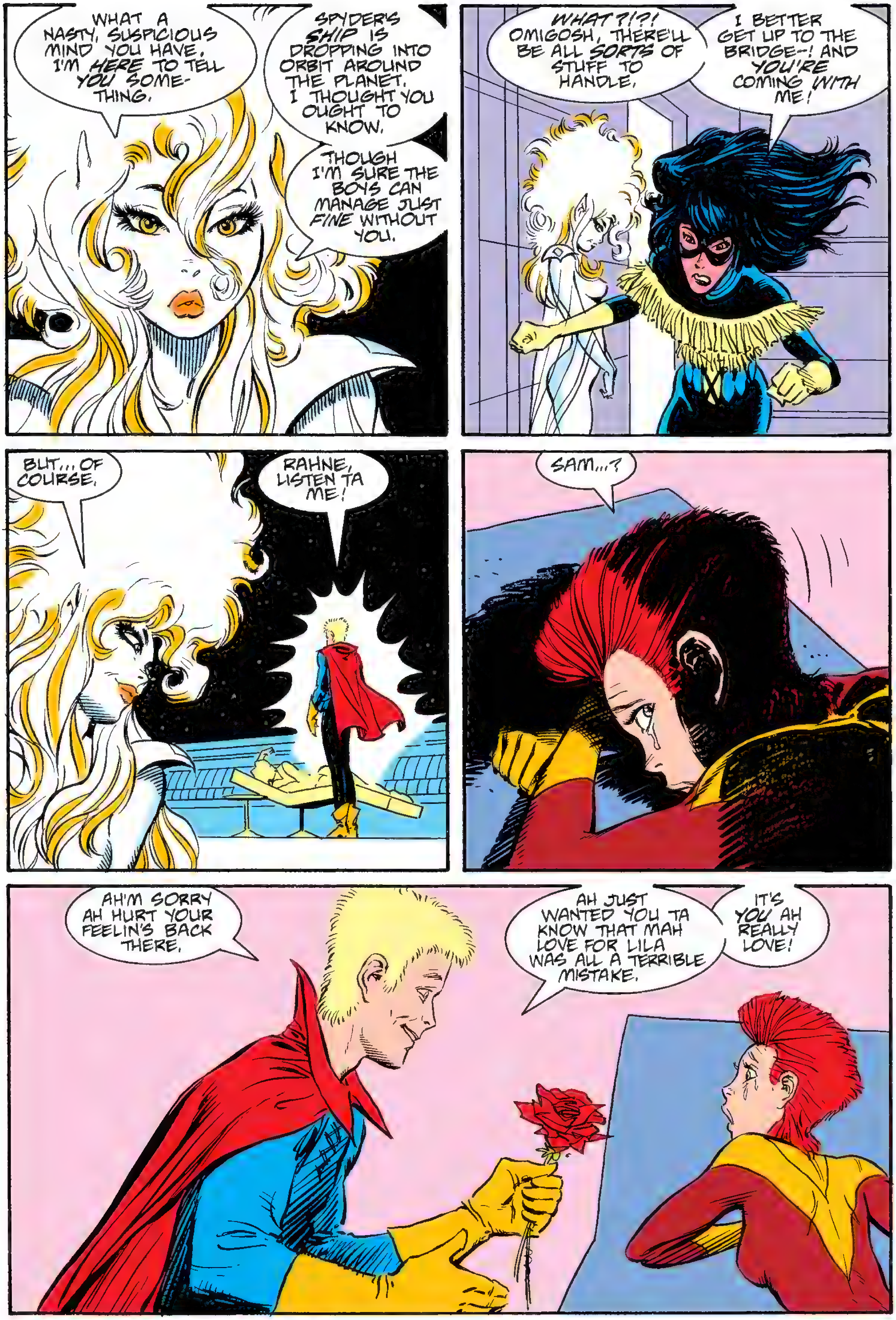

LATER...
...THEN WHEN HE LEARNED THAT I WAS A MUTANT...
...MY FATHER ABANDONED ME TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL.
AND NOW MY FATHER HAS JOINED THE *HELLFIRE CLUB,* THE BIGGEST BAND OF CUT-THROATS AROUND.
NO ONE-- NOT MY PARENTS OR PROFESSOR XAVIER OR MAGNETO OR EVEN MY TEAM-MATES--REALLY UNDERSTANDS ME.
WHICH IS JUST AS WELL.
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ELSE THIS, BUT I FOUND AN EVALUATION PROFESSOR XAVIER WROTE...
...BACK BEFORE HE WENT AWAY AND LEFT MAGNETO IN CHARGE. HE SAID HE FEARED THAT I WOULD TURN TO EVIL...
...AND I WANT SO MUCH TO BE A GREAT *HERO*...!
WHY *WHY? WHY* IS THERE THIS DARK *PART* OF ME?
CRASH
BOBBY, NO. I UNDERSTAND YOU.
YOU'RE *STRONG* AND *PASSIONATE* AND USED TO GETTING WHAT YOU *WANT.*
ON *MY* WORLD, THOSE ARE IMPORTANT *ASSETS* IN A MALE.
WHAT ELSE WOULD *ANY* FEMALE WANT IN A HERO...?

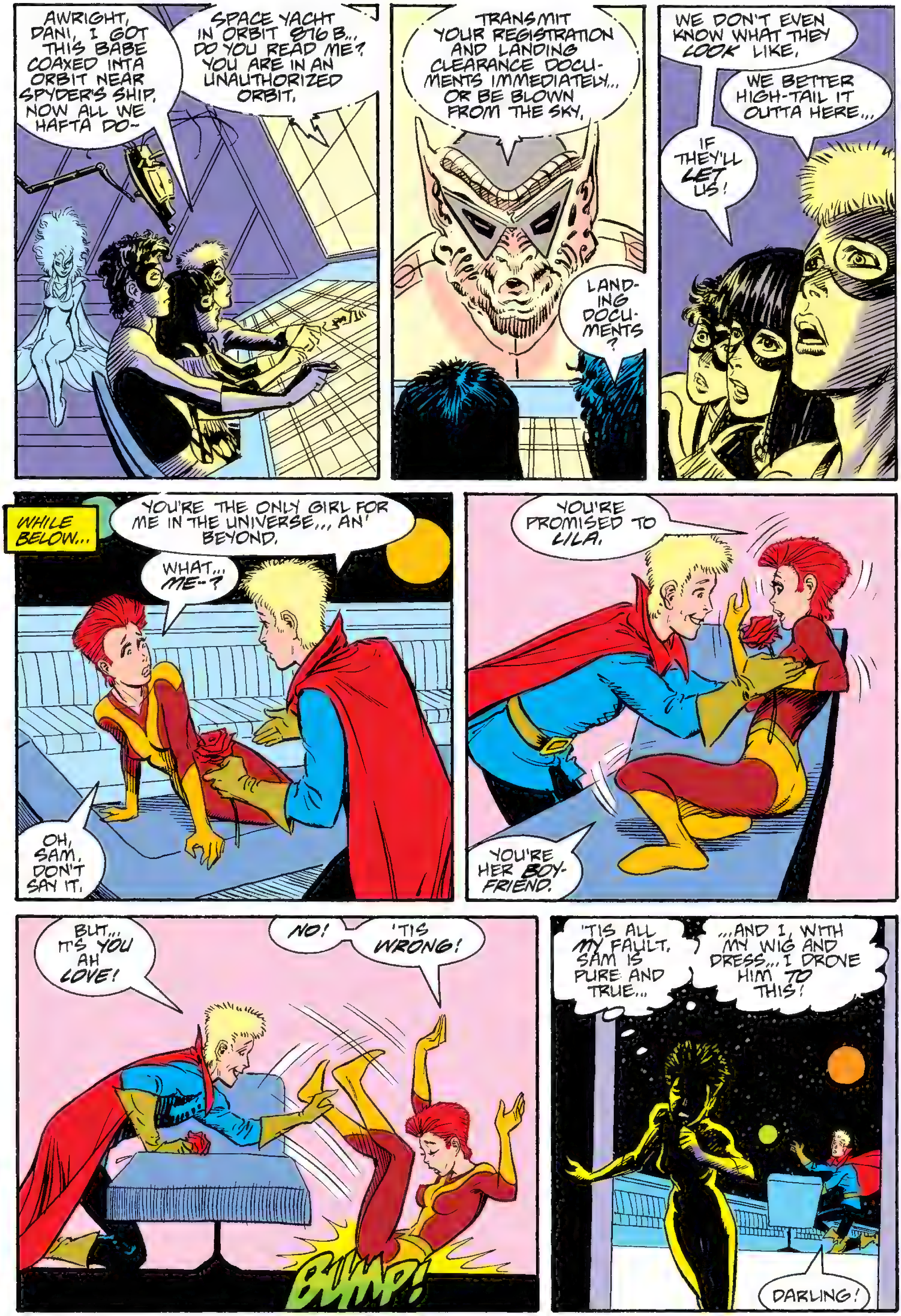

BOBBY--?
GOSAMYR--?
WHERE ARE--?

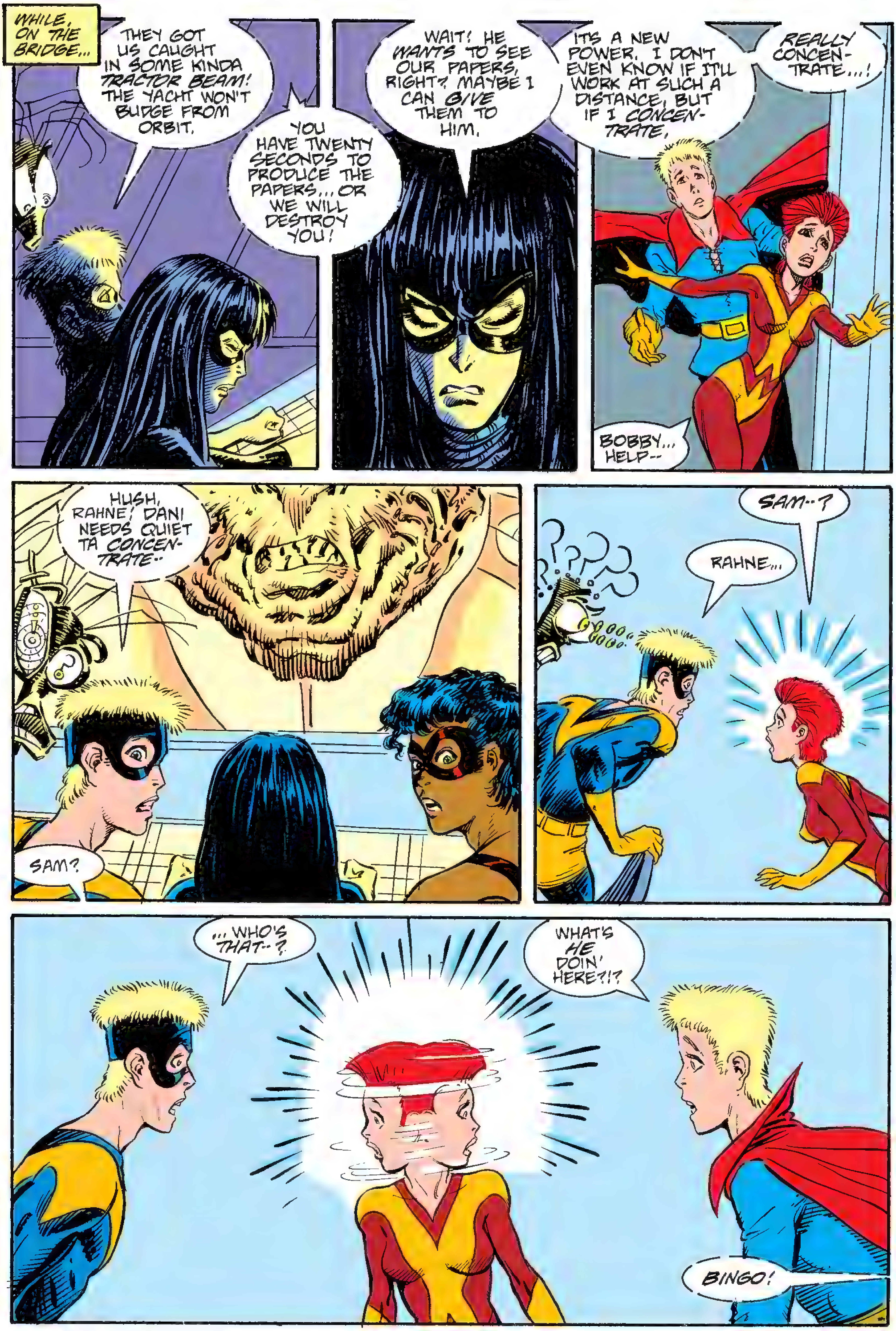

SOON...
SELFRIENDS ARE LUCKY THAT *SPYDER'S* SHIP HAS SLOWED...
...AND THAT SPACE-YACHT HAS AUTOMATIC TRACKING MECHANISM...
...OTHERWISE, SELFRIENDS MIGHT EASILY *LOSE* SPYDER'S SHIP.
I DON'T KNOW, 'LOCK. *ASTROGATION* DOESN'T LOOK *THAT* DIFFICULT.
TA YOU MAYBE. *AH* HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH TRIGONOMETRY.
DO YOU, SAM? YOU *LOOK* LIKE A MAN WHO COULD HANDLE *ANYTHING*.
AH DO--?
SPYDER'S SHIP *APPEARS* TO BE VEERING NEAR THAT PLANET.
THAT MUST BE WHERE HE'S TAKING LILA!
OH, SAM, YOU MUST *LOVE* HER A LOT TO COME ALL THIS WAY TO RESCUE HER. DON'T YOU...?
SAM...?
DANI, *WHY* DO YOU JUST KEEP MAKING THAT SPEAR CHANGE SIZES.?
WHY DON'T YOU CONJURE UP SOMETHING... *INTERESTING?*
"INTERESTING" IS EASY. I JUST FOCUS ON SOMEONE'S GREATEST *FEAR* OR *DESIRE*...
...AND THERE IT *IS*, IN THE *FLESH*... JUST AS THEY SEE IT.
ONLY I CAN'T KNOW *WHAT* THEY WANT OR FEAR TILL IT APPEARS.
AND THEN THE ONLY WAY TO GET *RID* OF IT IS TO CALL UP *SOMETHING ELSE*.

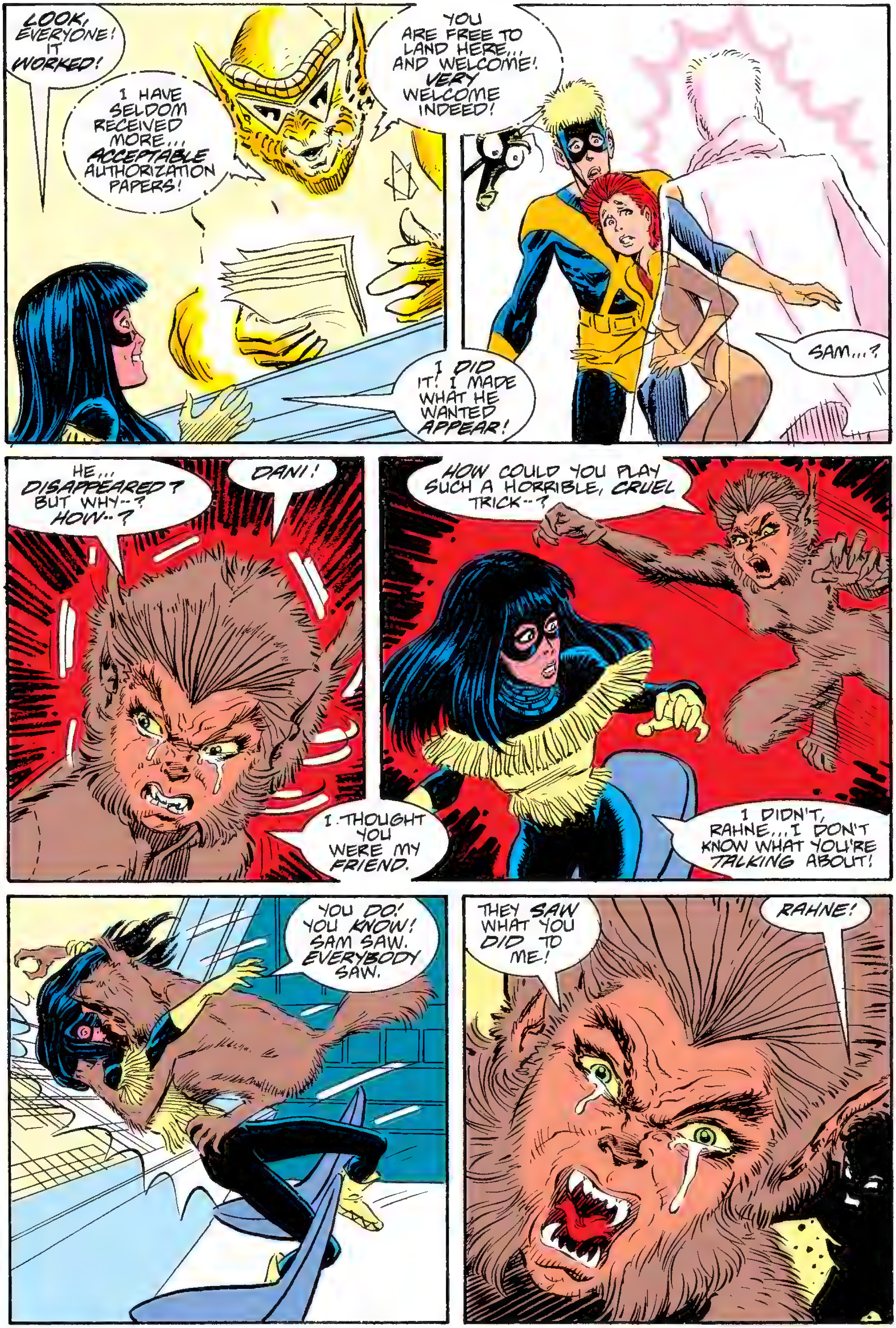

I HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING SAFE TO CALL UP... SOMETHING CERTAIN...
...SO I'M PRACTICING "WANTING" THIS SPEAR... LARGE OR SMALL... MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.
IF THAT'S WHAT TURNS YOU ON. I HAVE OTHER INTERESTS.
AH JUST BET YOU DO.
SAM... I...
I THINK I'LL GO... TO THE OBSERVATION DECK... OR SOMETHING...!
RAHNE?
RAHNE, WHAT'S WRONG--?
STRANGE, SAM... I THINK RAHNE HAS A CRUSH ON YOU.
NAH! SHE'S JUST A KID. SHE WAS FRIENDS WITH ONE OF OUR TEAMMATES, BUT HE DIED. MAYBE IF THEY'D BEEN OLDER...
BUT RAHNE'S KINDA MIXED UP ABOUT ROMANCE AN' STUFF.
SHE'S AN ORPHAN AND WAS RAISED REAL STRICT AND RELIGIOUS...
...AN' AT THE SAME TIME, SHE READ LOTSA FANTASY BOOKS AND FAIRY TALES.
AN' THEN COUPLE A' YEARS AGO, SHE STARTED TURNIN' INTA A WEREWOLF! POOR LITTLE KID WAS MIXED UP ENOUGH BEFORE.
SHE SORTA SEES ME LIKE A BIG BROTHER, AN'...
IF SHE HAD A CRUSH ON ANYONE, GOSAMYR, IT WOULD BE ON ME!
OH... LOOK AT THE SCREEN. SPYDER'S SHIP IS DROPPING INTO ORBIT.
I BETTER GO TELL RAHNE AND DANI.
AN' AH BETTER GET SUITED UP. AH BET THERE'S FIREWORKS, AN' AH WANNA BE DRESSED FOR 'EM.

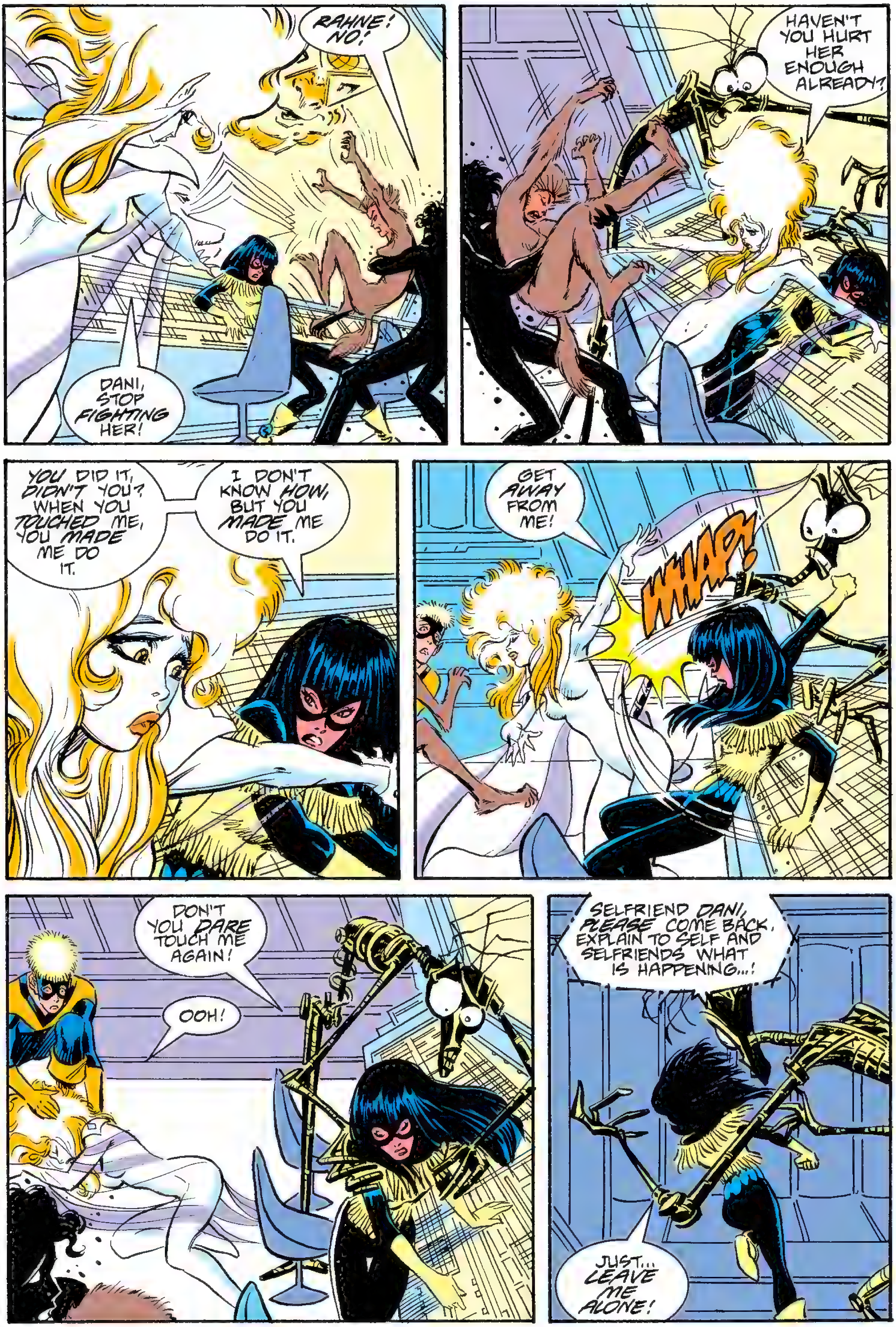

HOW CAN SAM *LOOK* AT HER LIKE THAT? *HOW?*
HE'S SO NOBLE... AND GOOD. HOW CAN HE *FLIRT* WITH THAT CREATURE?
WHEN POOR LILA COULD BE--
RAHNE--?
RAHNE-- WHAT--?
GOSAMYR!
POOR LITTLE RAHNE, WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL...
...TO GIVE HER HER *HEART'S DESIRE?*
DON'T TOUCH ME! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE? COME TO TORTURE RAHNE IN *PRIVATE?*

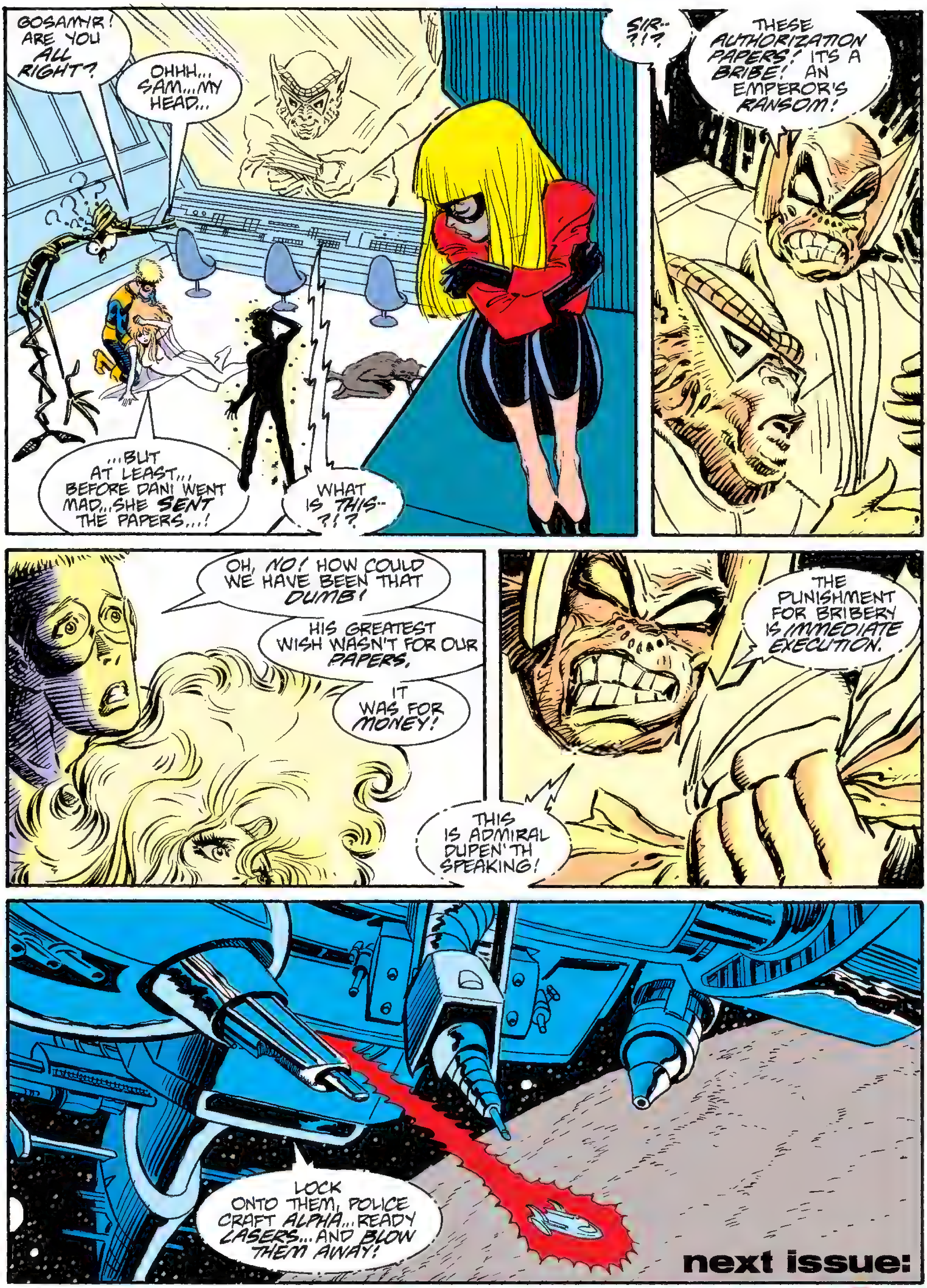

WHAT A NASTY, SUSPICIOUS MIND YOU HAVE. I'M *HERE* TO TELL *YOU* SOMETHING.
SPYDER'S *SHIP* IS DROPPING INTO ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET. I THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.
THOUGH I'M SURE THE BOYS CAN MANAGE JUST *FINE* WITHOUT YOU.
WHAT?!?! OMIGOSH, THERE'LL BE ALL *SORTS* OF STUFF TO HANDLE.
I BETTER GET UP TO THE BRIDGE--! AND *YOU'RE* COMING *WITH* ME!
BUT... OF COURSE.
RAHNE, LISTEN TA ME!
SAM...?
AH'M SORRY AH HURT YOUR FEELIN'S BACK THERE.
AH JUST WANTED YOU TA KNOW THAT MAH LOVE FOR LILA WAS ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.
IT'S *YOU* AH REALLY LOVE!


AWRIGHT, DANI, I GOT THIS BABE COAXED INTA ORBIT NEAR SPYDER'S SHIP, NOW ALL WE HAFTA DO–
SPACE YACHT IN ORBIT 876 B.., DO YOU READ ME? YOU ARE IN AN UNAUTHORIZED ORBIT.
TRANSMIT YOUR REGISTRATION AND LANDING CLEARANCE DOCUMENTS IMMEDIATELY... OR BE BLOWN FROM THE SKY.
LANDING DOCUMENTS?
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY *LOOK* LIKE.
WE BETTER HIGH-TAIL IT OUTTA HERE...
IF THEY'LL *LET* US!
WHILE BELOW...
YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL FOR ME IN THE UNIVERSE... AN' BEYOND.
WHAT... *ME*–?
OH, SAM, DON'T SAY IT.
YOU'RE PROMISED TO *LILA*.
YOU'RE HER *BOY*-FRIEND.
BUT... IT'S *YOU* AH *LOVE*!
NO!
'TIS *WRONG!*
BUMP!
'TIS ALL *MY* FAULT. SAM IS PURE AND TRUE...
...AND I, WITH MY WIG AND DRESS... I DROVE HIM *TO* THIS!
DARLING!


WHILE, ON THE BRIDGE...
THEY GOT US CAUGHT IN SOME KINDA TRACTOR BEAM! THE YACHT WON'T BUDGE FROM ORBIT.
YOU HAVE TWENTY SECONDS TO PRODUCE THE PAPERS... OR WE WILL DESTROY YOU!
WAIT! HE WANTS TO SEE OUR PAPERS, RIGHT? MAYBE I CAN GIVE THEM TO HIM.
IT'S A NEW POWER. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'LL WORK AT SUCH A DISTANCE, BUT IF I CONCENTRATE,
REALLY CONCENTRATE...!
BOBBY... HELP--
HUSH, RAHNE! DANI NEEDS QUIET TA CONCENTRATE--
SAM?
SAM--?
RAHNE...
...WHO'S THAT--?
WHAT'S HE DOIN' HERE?!?
BINGO!


LOOK, EVERYONE! IT WORKED!
I HAVE SELDOM RECEIVED MORE... ACCEPTABLE AUTHORIZATION PAPERS!
YOU ARE FREE TO LAND HERE... AND WELCOME! VERY WELCOME INDEED!
I DID IT! I MADE WHAT HE WANTED APPEAR!
SAM...?
HE... DISAPPEARED? BUT WHY--? HOW--?
DANI!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND.
HOW COULD YOU PLAY SUCH A HORRIBLE, CRUEL TRICK--?
I DIDN'T, RAHNE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
YOU DO! YOU KNOW! SAM SAW. EVERYBODY SAW.
THEY SAW WHAT YOU DID TO ME!
RAHNE!


RAHNE! NO!
DANI, STOP FIGHTING HER!
HAVEN'T YOU HURT HER ENOUGH ALREADY?
YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU? WHEN YOU TOUCHED ME, YOU MADE ME DO IT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT YOU MADE ME DO IT.
GET AWAY FROM ME!
WHAP!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME AGAIN!
OOH!
SELFRIEND DANI, PLEASE COME BACK. EXPLAIN TO SELF AND SELFRIENDS WHAT IS HAPPENING...!
JUST... LEAVE ME ALONE!


GOSAMYR! ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
OHHH... SAM... MY HEAD...
...BUT AT LEAST... BEFORE DANI WENT MAD... SHE *SENT* THE PAPERS...!
WHAT IS *THIS*-- ?!?
SIR-- ?!?
THESE *AUTHORIZATION PAPERS!* IT'S A *BRIBE!* AN EMPEROR'S *RANSOM!*
OH, *NO!* HOW COULD WE HAVE BEEN THAT *DUMB!*
HIS GREATEST WISH WASN'T FOR OUR *PAPERS.*
IT WAS FOR *MONEY!*
THE PUNISHMENT FOR BRIBERY IS *IMMEDIATE EXECUTION.*
THIS IS ADMIRAL DUPEN'TH SPEAKING!
LOCK ONTO THEM, POLICE CRAFT *ALPHA*... READY *LASERS*... AND *BLOW* THEM AWAY!
next issue:

bad luck-bad news! BAD COMPANY

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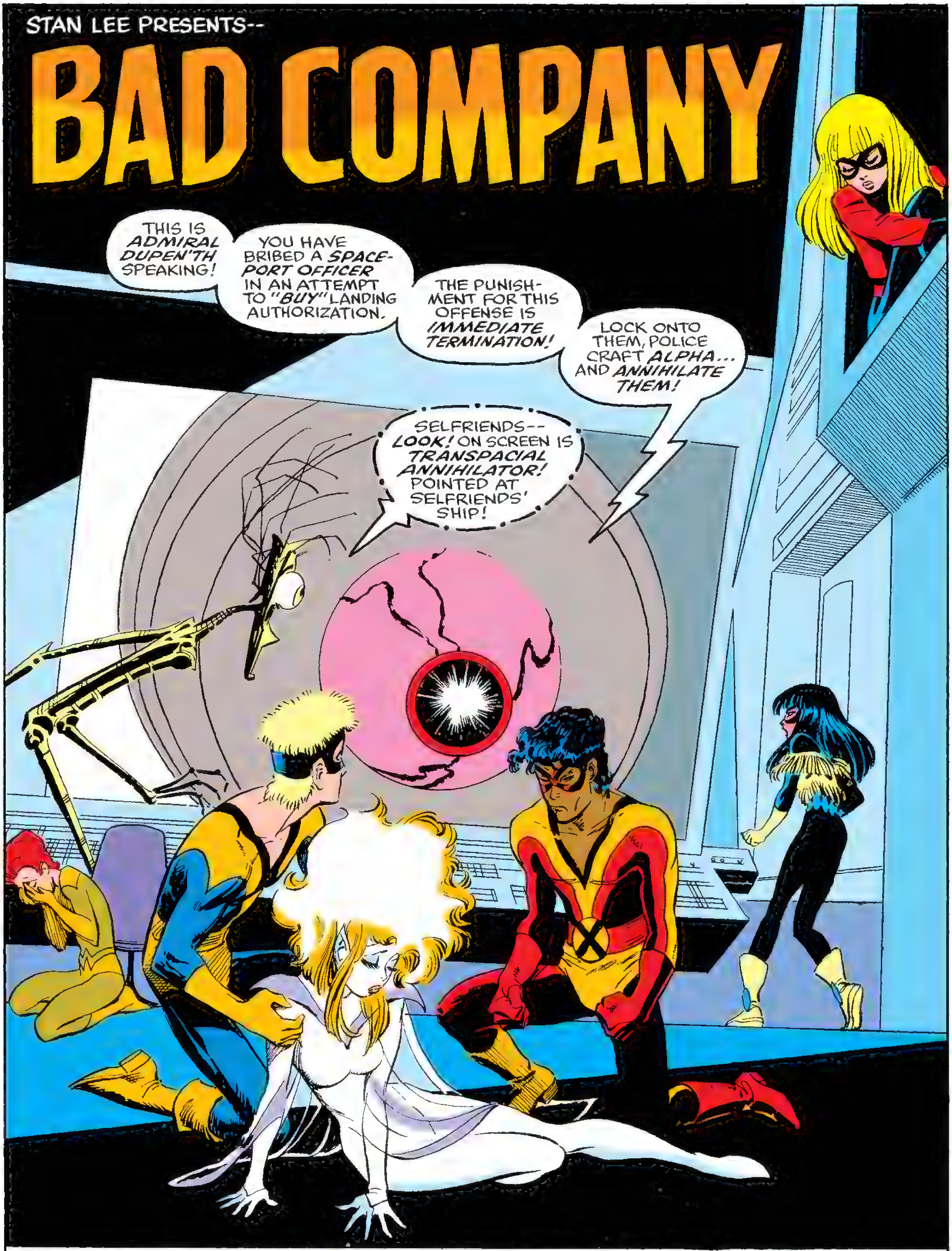
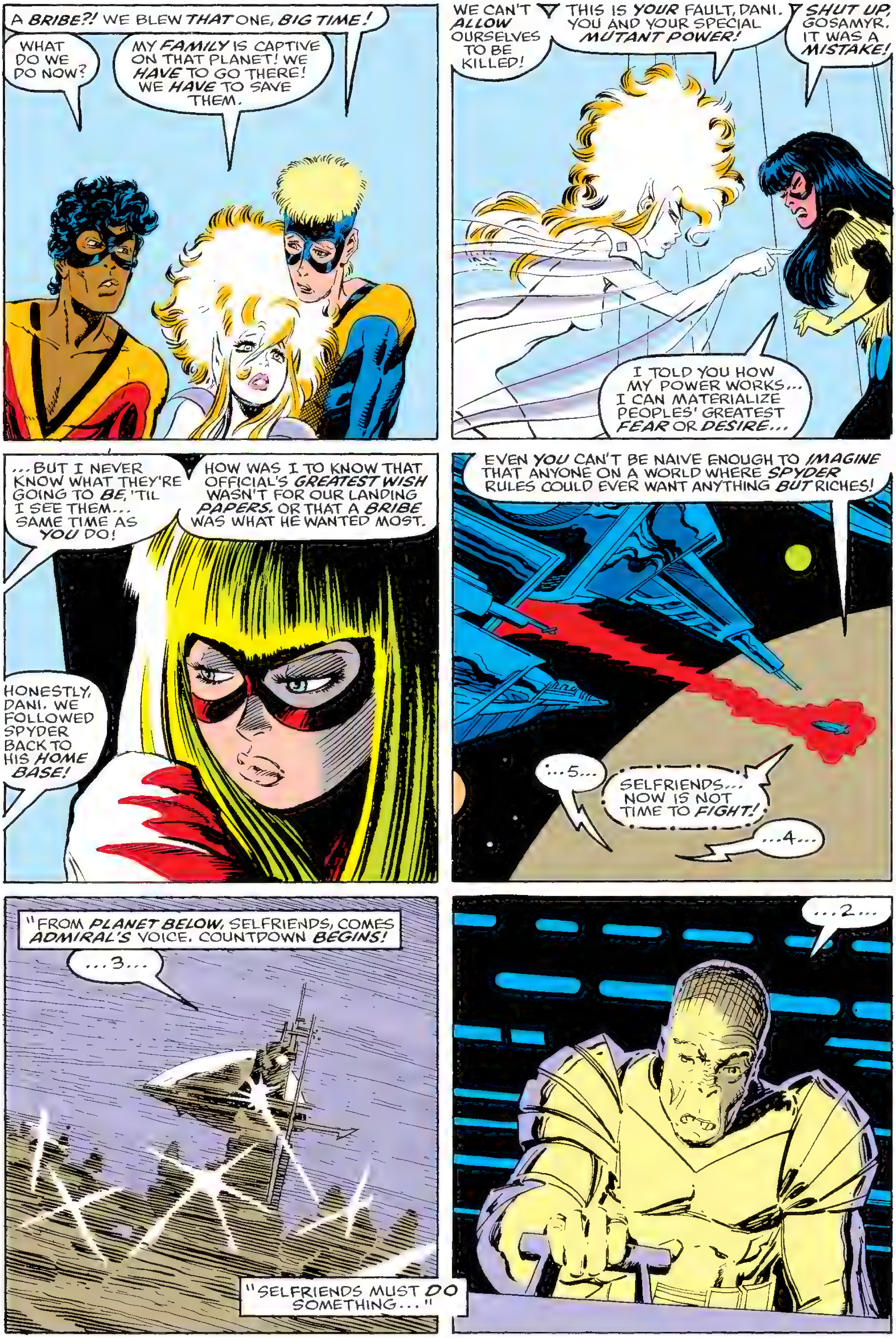
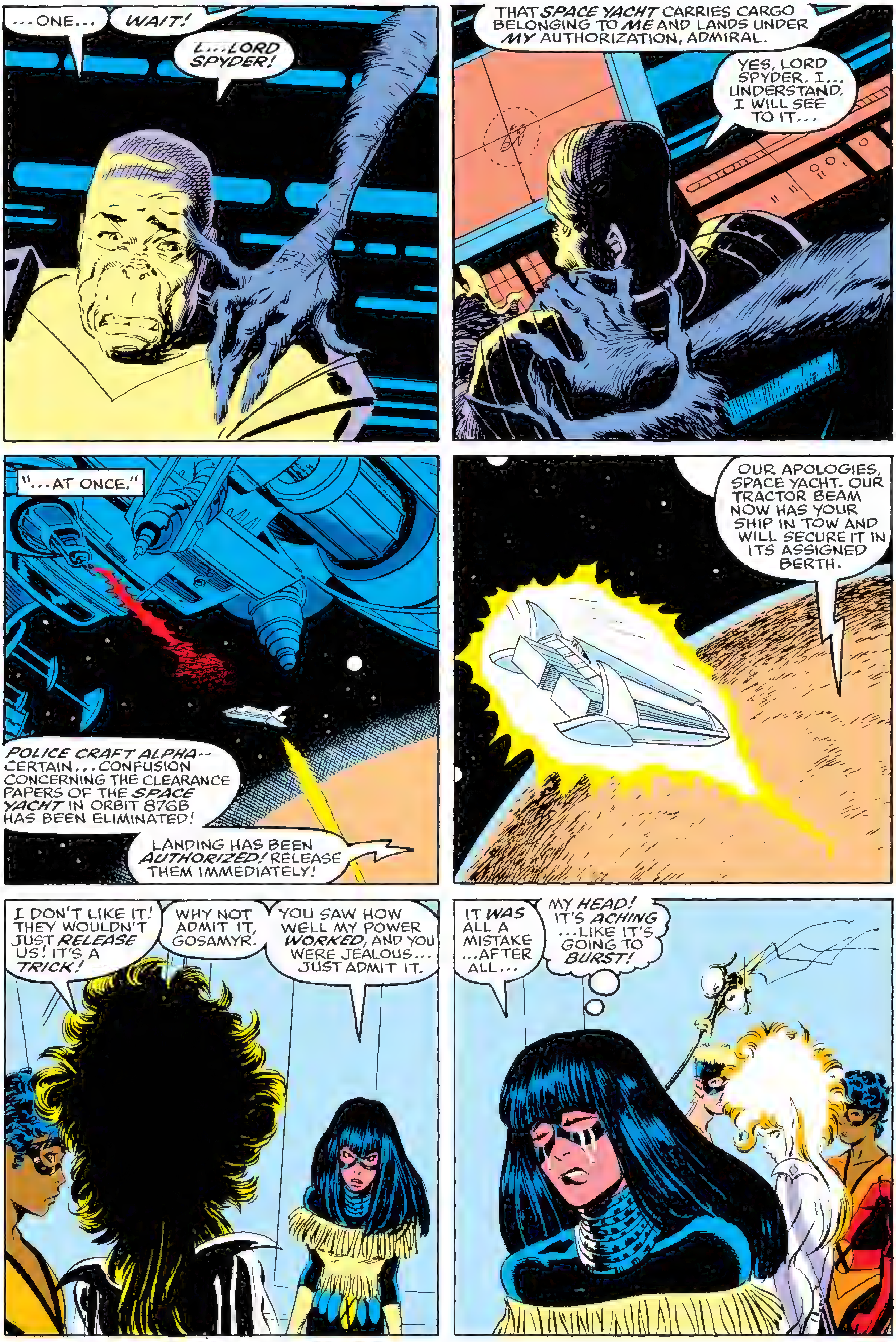
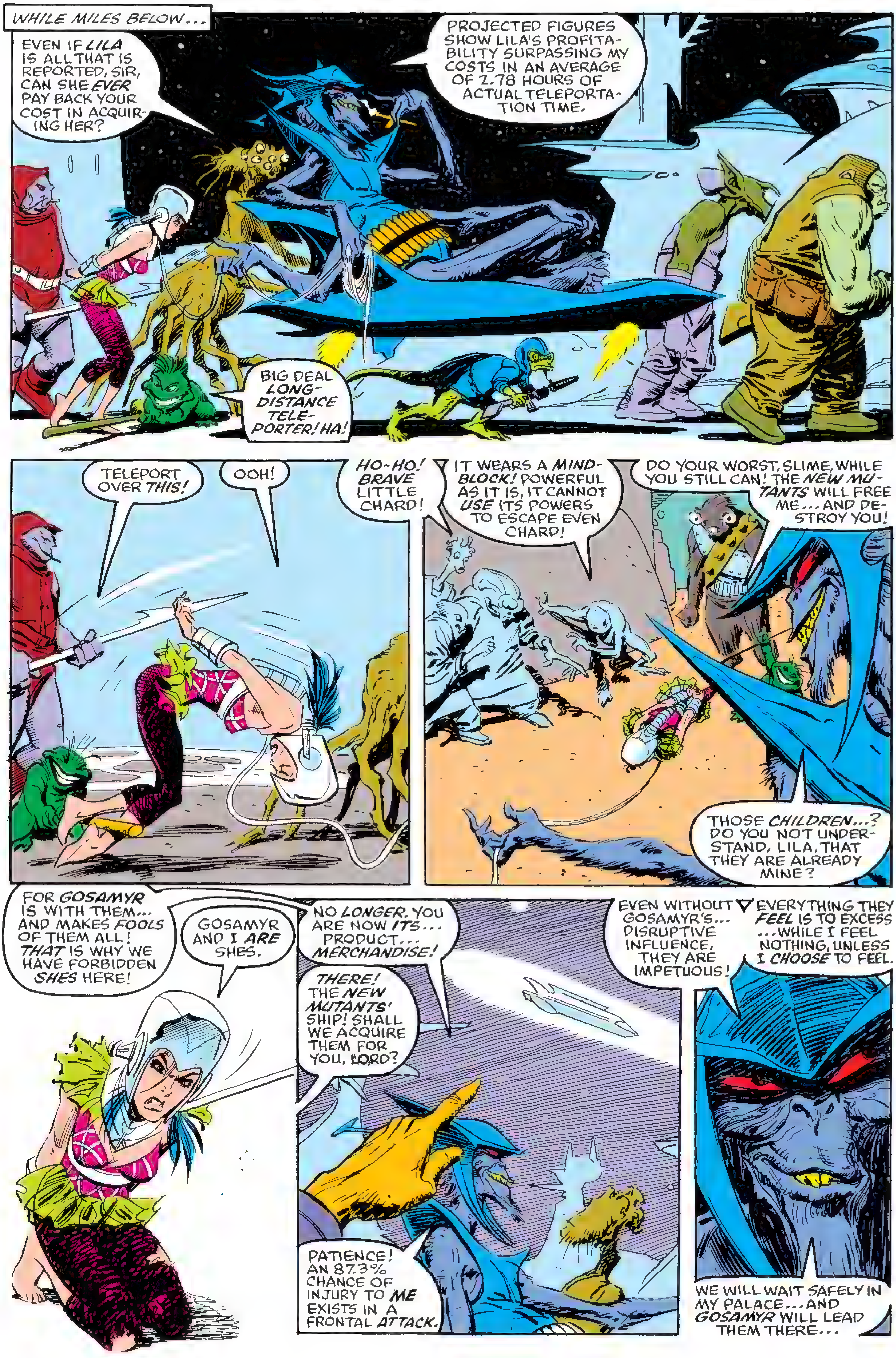
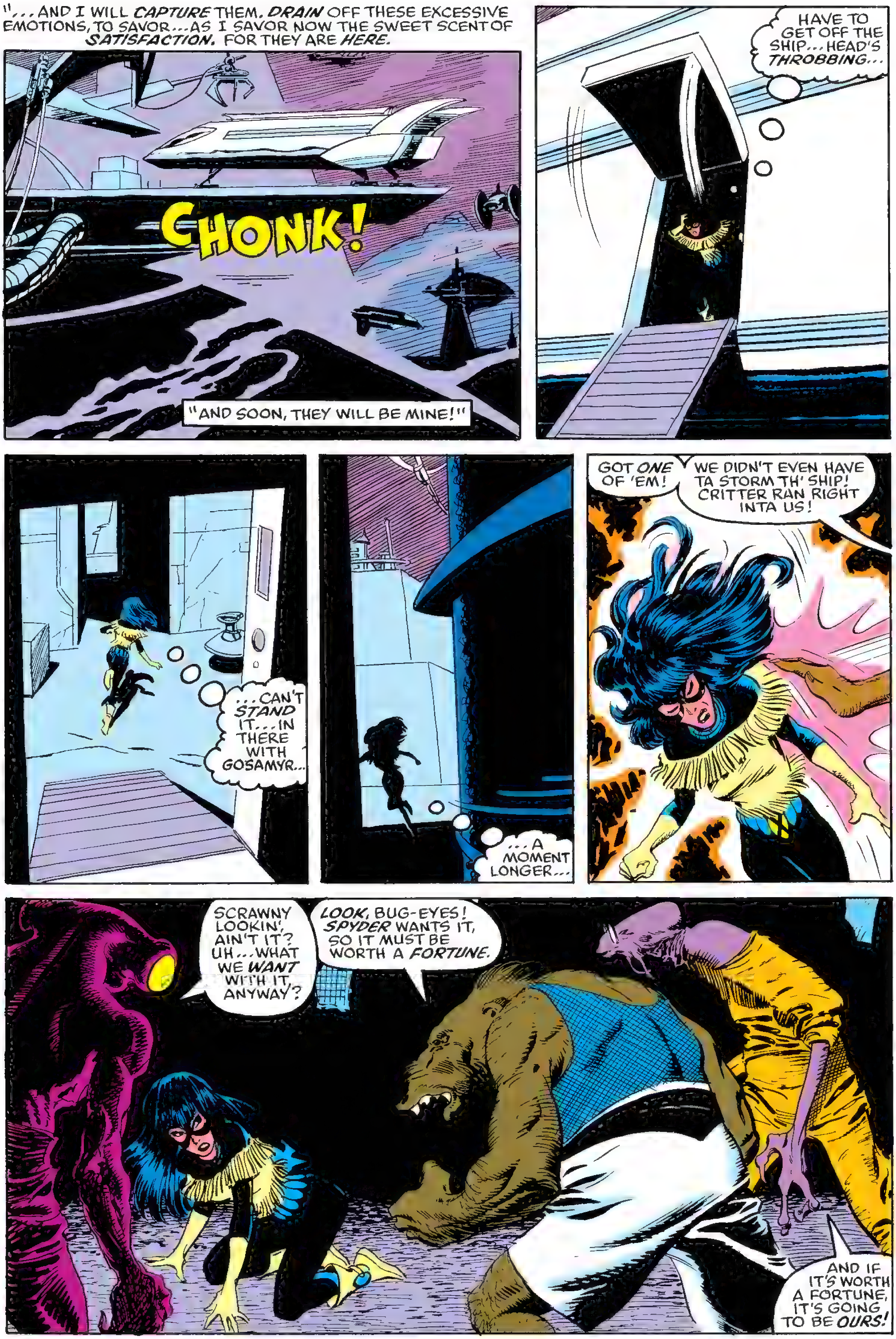

STAN LEE PRESENTS--
BAD COMPANY
THIS IS *ADMIRAL DUPEN'TH* SPEAKING!
YOU HAVE BRIBED A *SPACE-PORT OFFICER* IN AN ATTEMPT TO *"BUY"* LANDING AUTHORIZATION.
THE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS OFFENSE IS *IMMEDIATE TERMINATION!*
LOCK ONTO THEM, POLICE CRAFT *ALPHA...* AND *ANNIHILATE THEM!*
SELFRIENDS-- *LOOK!* ON SCREEN IS *TRANSPACIAL ANNIHILATOR!* POINTED AT SELFRIENDS' SHIP!

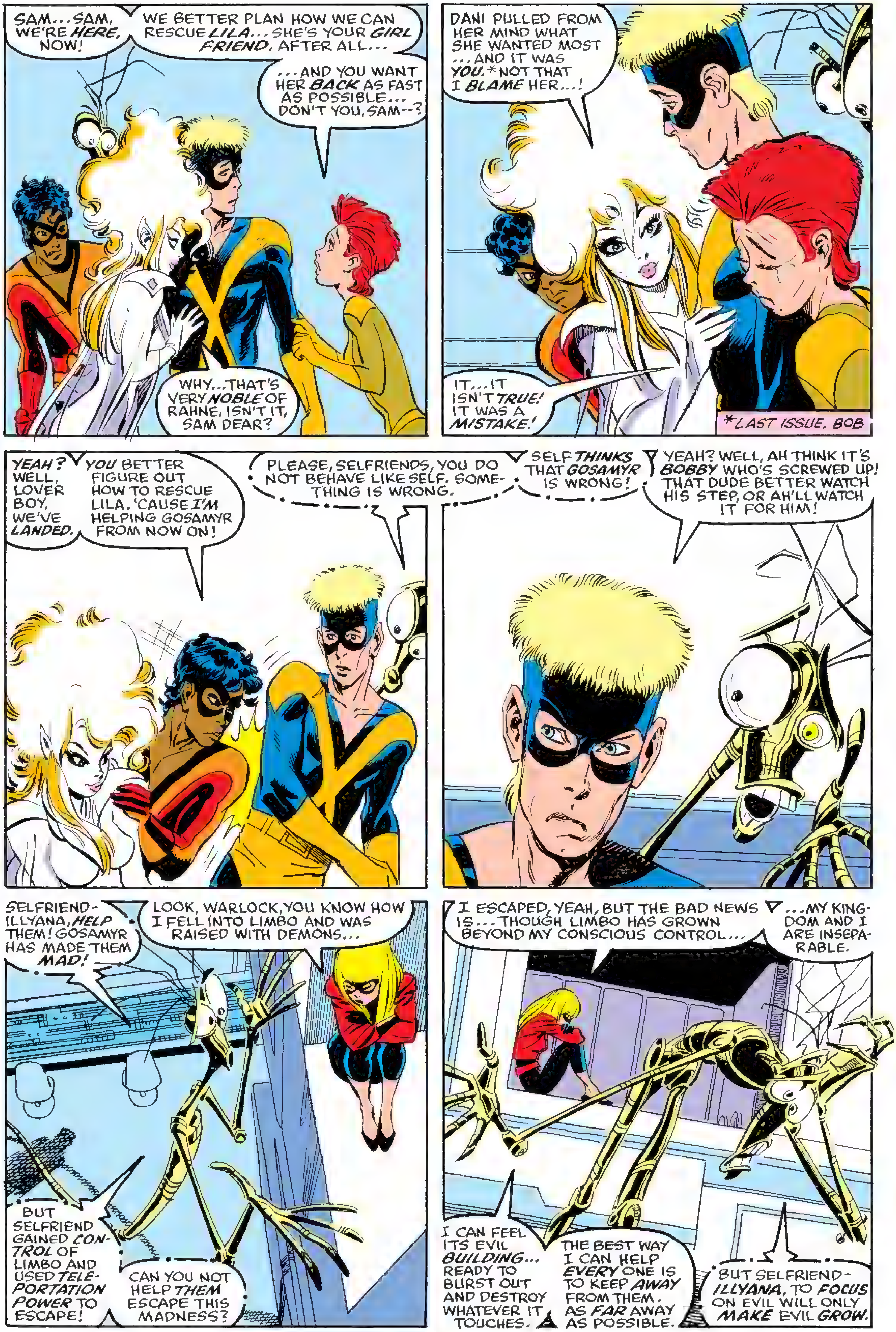
LOUISE SIMONSON	BRET BLEVINS	AL WILLIAMSON	JOE ROSEN	GLYNIS OLIVER	BOB HARRAS	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	PENCILLER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

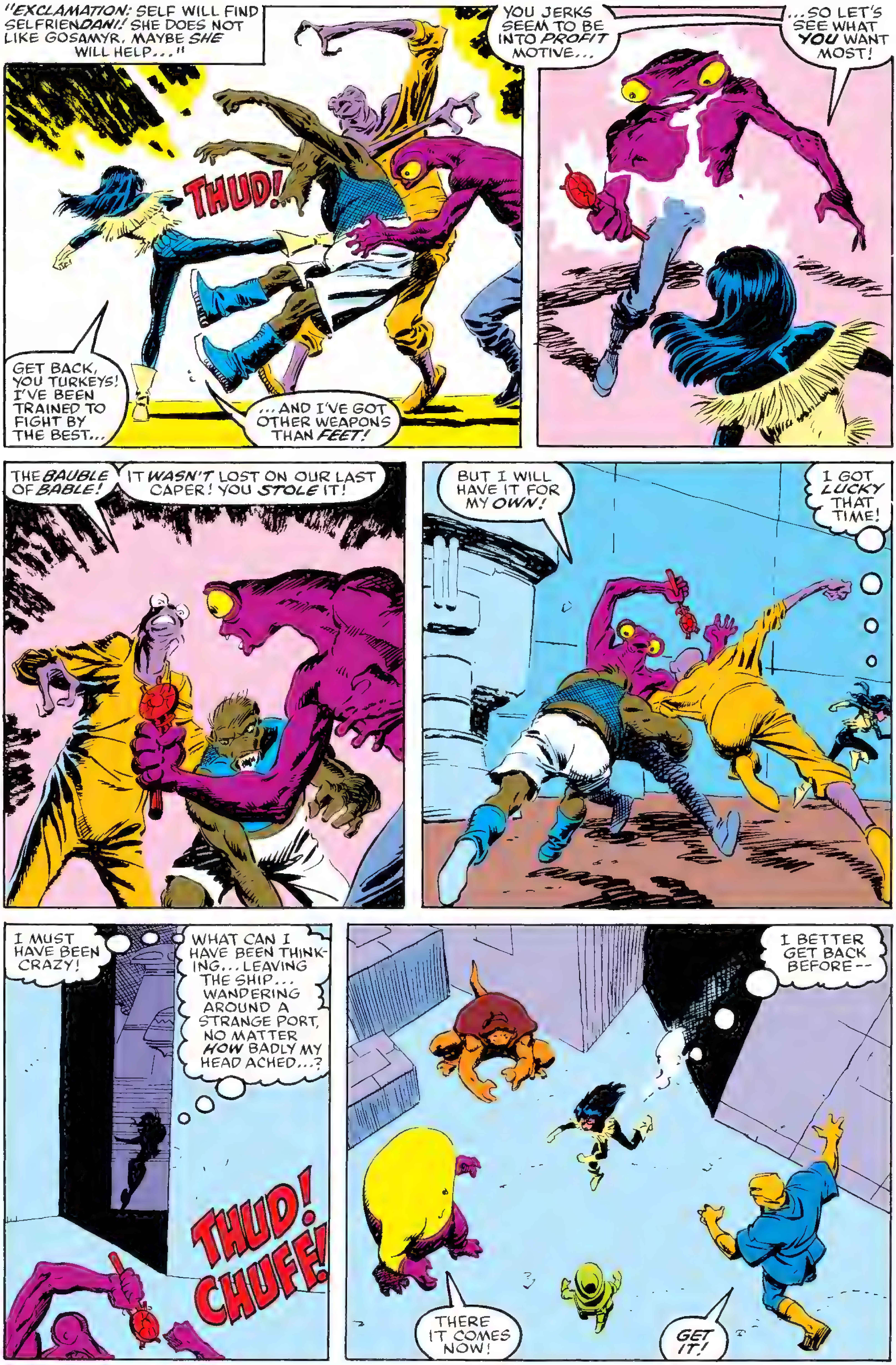

A BRIBE?! WE BLEW THAT ONE, BIG TIME!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
MY FAMILY IS CAPTIVE ON THAT PLANET! WE HAVE TO GO THERE! WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM.
WE CAN'T ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE KILLED!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, DANI. YOU AND YOUR SPECIAL MUTANT POWER!
SHUT UP, GOSAMYR. IT WAS A MISTAKE!
I TOLD YOU HOW MY POWER WORKS... I CAN MATERIALIZE PEOPLES' GREATEST FEAR OR DESIRE...
...BUT I NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE, 'TIL I SEE THEM... SAME TIME AS YOU DO!
HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT OFFICIAL'S GREATEST WISH WASN'T FOR OUR LANDING PAPERS, OR THAT A BRIBE WAS WHAT HE WANTED MOST.
HONESTLY, DANI. WE FOLLOWED SPYDER BACK TO HIS HOME BASE!
EVEN YOU CAN'T BE NAIVE ENOUGH TO IMAGINE THAT ANYONE ON A WORLD WHERE SPYDER RULES COULD EVER WANT ANYTHING BUT RICHES!
...5...
SELFRIENDS... NOW IS NOT TIME TO FIGHT!
...4...
"FROM PLANET BELOW, SELFRIENDS, COMES ADMIRAL'S VOICE. COUNTDOWN BEGINS!
...3...
"SELFRIENDS MUST DO SOMETHING..."
...2...

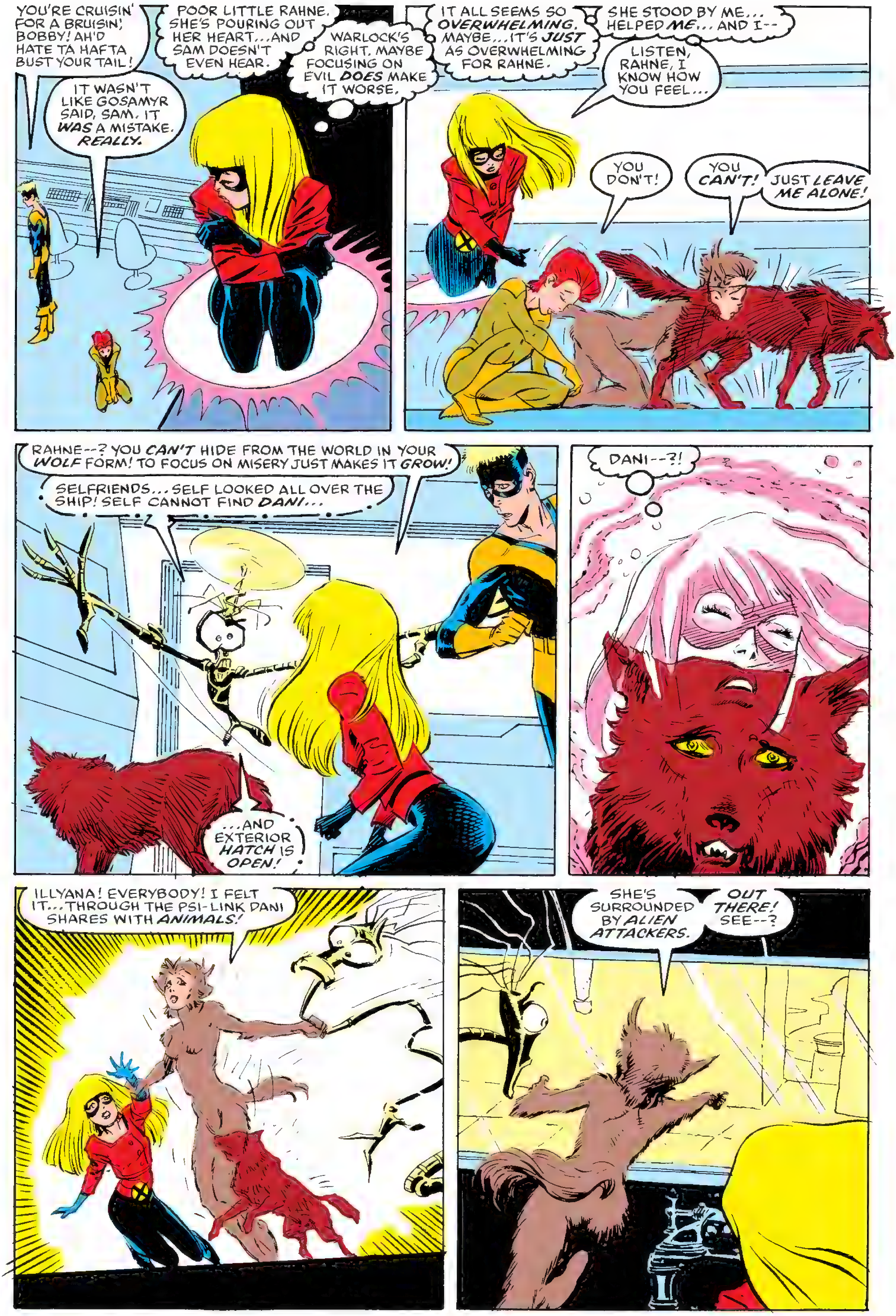

...ONE...
WAIT!
L...LORD SPYDER!
THAT *SPACE YACHT* CARRIES CARGO BELONGING TO *ME* AND LANDS UNDER *MY* AUTHORIZATION, ADMIRAL.
YES, LORD SPYDER. I... UNDERSTAND. I WILL SEE TO IT...
"...AT ONCE."
POLICE CRAFT ALPHA-- CERTAIN... CONFUSION CONCERNING THE CLEARANCE PAPERS OF THE *SPACE YACHT* IN ORBIT 876B HAS BEEN ELIMINATED!
LANDING HAS BEEN *AUTHORIZED!* RELEASE THEM IMMEDIATELY!
OUR APOLOGIES, SPACE YACHT. OUR TRACTOR BEAM NOW HAS YOUR SHIP IN TOW AND WILL SECURE IT IN ITS ASSIGNED BERTH.
I DON'T LIKE IT! THEY WOULDN'T JUST *RELEASE* US! IT'S A *TRICK!*
WHY NOT ADMIT IT, GOSAMYR.
YOU SAW HOW WELL MY POWER *WORKED*, AND YOU WERE JEALOUS... JUST ADMIT IT.
IT *WAS* ALL A MISTAKE ...AFTER ALL...
MY *HEAD!* IT'S *ACHING* ...LIKE IT'S GOING TO *BURST!*

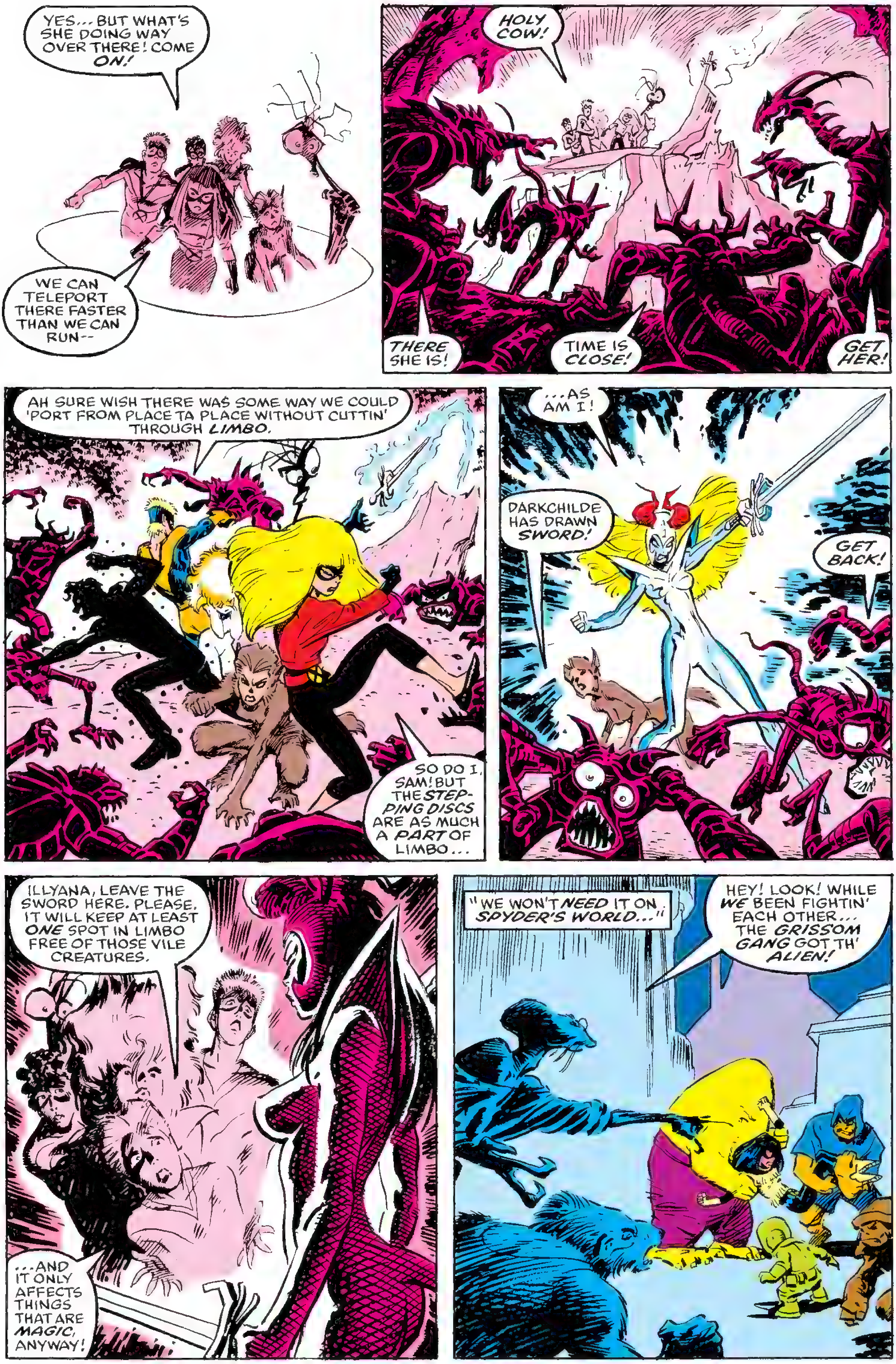

WHILE MILES BELOW...
EVEN IF *LILA* IS ALL THAT IS REPORTED, SIR, CAN SHE *EVER* PAY BACK YOUR COST IN ACQUIRING HER?
PROJECTED FIGURES SHOW LILA'S PROFITABILITY SURPASSING MY COSTS IN AN AVERAGE OF 2.78 HOURS OF ACTUAL TELEPORTATION TIME.
BIG DEAL *LONG-DISTANCE TELEPORTER!* HA!
TELEPORT OVER *THIS!*
OOH!
HO-HO! BRAVE LITTLE CHARD!
IT WEARS A *MIND-BLOCK!* POWERFUL AS IT IS, IT CANNOT *USE* ITS POWERS TO ESCAPE EVEN CHARD!
DO YOUR WORST, SLIME, WHILE YOU STILL CAN! THE *NEW MUTANTS* WILL FREE ME... AND DESTROY YOU!
THOSE *CHILDREN...?* DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND, LILA, THAT THEY ARE ALREADY MINE?
FOR *GOSAMYR* IS WITH THEM... AND MAKES *FOOLS* OF THEM ALL! *THAT* IS WHY WE HAVE FORBIDDEN *SHES* HERE!
GOSAMYR AND I *ARE* SHES.
NO *LONGER.* YOU ARE NOW *ITS*... PRODUCT... *MERCHANDISE!*
THERE! THE *NEW MUTANTS'* SHIP! SHALL WE ACQUIRE THEM FOR YOU, LORD?
PATIENCE! AN 87.3% CHANCE OF INJURY TO *ME* EXISTS IN A FRONTAL *ATTACK.*
EVEN WITHOUT GOSAMYR'S... DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE, THEY ARE IMPETUOUS!
EVERYTHING THEY *FEEL* IS TO EXCESS ...WHILE I FEEL NOTHING, UNLESS I *CHOOSE* TO FEEL.
WE WILL WAIT SAFELY IN MY PALACE... AND *GOSAMYR* WILL LEAD THEM THERE...

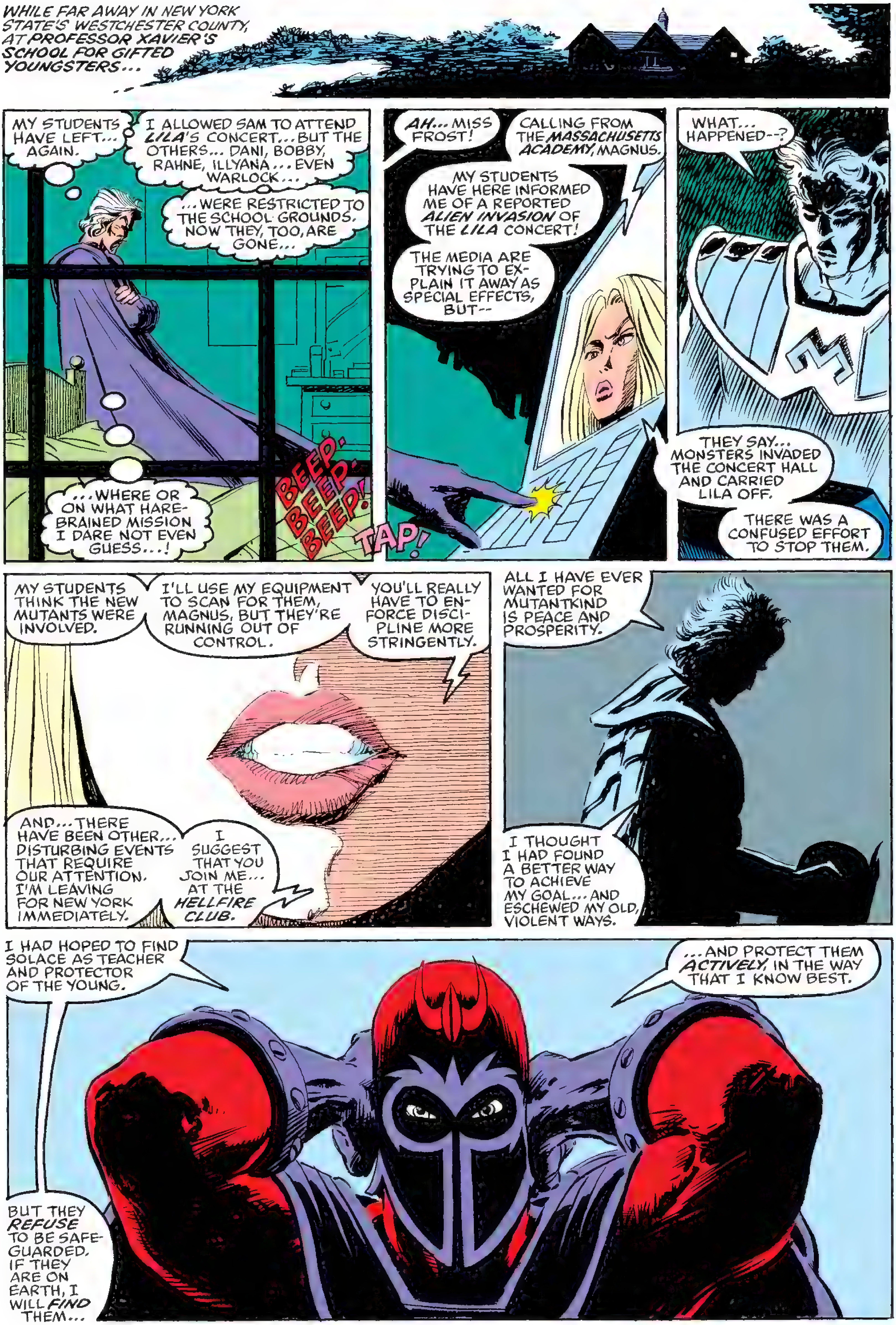

"...AND I WILL *CAPTURE* THEM. *DRAIN* OFF THESE EXCESSIVE EMOTIONS, TO SAVOR...AS I SAVOR NOW THE SWEET SCENT OF *SATISFACTION.* FOR THEY ARE *HERE.*
CHONK!
"AND SOON, THEY WILL BE MINE!"
HAVE TO GET OFF THE SHIP... HEAD'S *THROBBING...*
...CAN'T *STAND* IT... IN THERE WITH GOSAMYR...
...A MOMENT LONGER...
GOT *ONE* OF 'EM!
WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TA STORM TH' SHIP! CRITTER RAN RIGHT INTA US!
SCRAWNY LOOKIN', AIN'T IT? UH... WHAT WE *WANT* WITH IT, ANYWAY?
LOOK, BUG-EYES! *SPYDER* WANTS IT, SO IT MUST BE WORTH A *FORTUNE.*
AND IF IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE, IT'S GOING TO BE *OURS!*

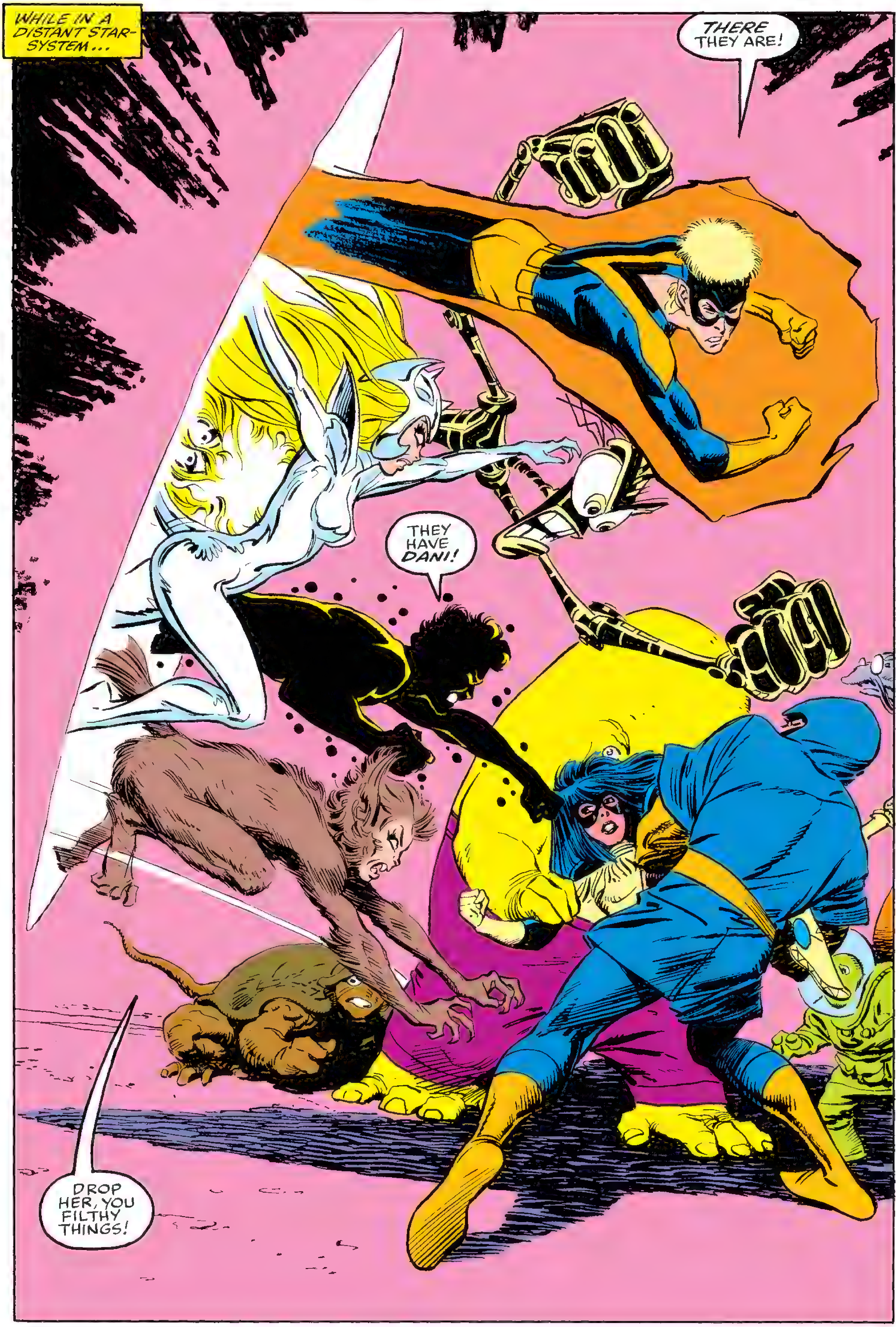

SAM...SAM, WE'RE *HERE*, NOW!
WE BETTER PLAN HOW WE CAN RESCUE *LILA*... SHE'S YOUR *GIRL FRIEND*, AFTER ALL...
...AND YOU WANT HER *BACK* AS FAST AS POSSIBLE... DON'T YOU, SAM--?
WHY...THAT'S VERY *NOBLE* OF RAHNE, ISN'T IT, SAM DEAR?
DANI PULLED FROM HER MIND WHAT SHE WANTED MOST ...AND IT WAS *YOU.** NOT THAT I *BLAME* HER...!
IT...IT ISN'T *TRUE!* IT WAS A *MISTAKE!*
*LAST ISSUE. BOB
YEAH? WELL, LOVER BOY, WE'VE *LANDED.*
YOU BETTER FIGURE OUT HOW TO RESCUE LILA. 'CAUSE *I'M* HELPING GOSAMYR FROM NOW ON!
PLEASE, SELFRIENDS, YOU DO NOT BEHAVE LIKE SELF. SOMETHING IS WRONG.
SELF *THINKS* THAT *GOSAMYR* IS WRONG!
YEAH? WELL, AH THINK IT'S *BOBBY* WHO'S SCREWED UP! THAT DUDE BETTER WATCH HIS STEP, OR AH'LL WATCH IT FOR HIM!
SELFRIEND-ILLYANA, *HELP* THEM! GOSAMYR HAS MADE THEM *MAD!*
LOOK, WARLOCK, YOU KNOW HOW I FELL INTO LIMBO AND WAS RAISED WITH DEMONS...
BUT SELFRIEND GAINED *CONTROL* OF LIMBO AND USED *TELEPORTATION POWER* TO ESCAPE!
CAN YOU NOT HELP *THEM* ESCAPE THIS MADNESS?
I ESCAPED, YEAH, BUT THE BAD NEWS IS... THOUGH LIMBO HAS GROWN BEYOND MY CONSCIOUS CONTROL...
...MY KINGDOM AND I ARE INSEPARABLE.
I CAN FEEL ITS EVIL *BUILDING*... READY TO BURST OUT AND DESTROY WHATEVER IT TOUCHES.
THE BEST WAY I CAN HELP *EVERY* ONE IS TO KEEP *AWAY* FROM THEM. AS *FAR* AWAY AS POSSIBLE.
BUT SELFRIEND-*ILLYANA*, TO *FOCUS* ON EVIL WILL ONLY *MAKE* EVIL *GROW.*

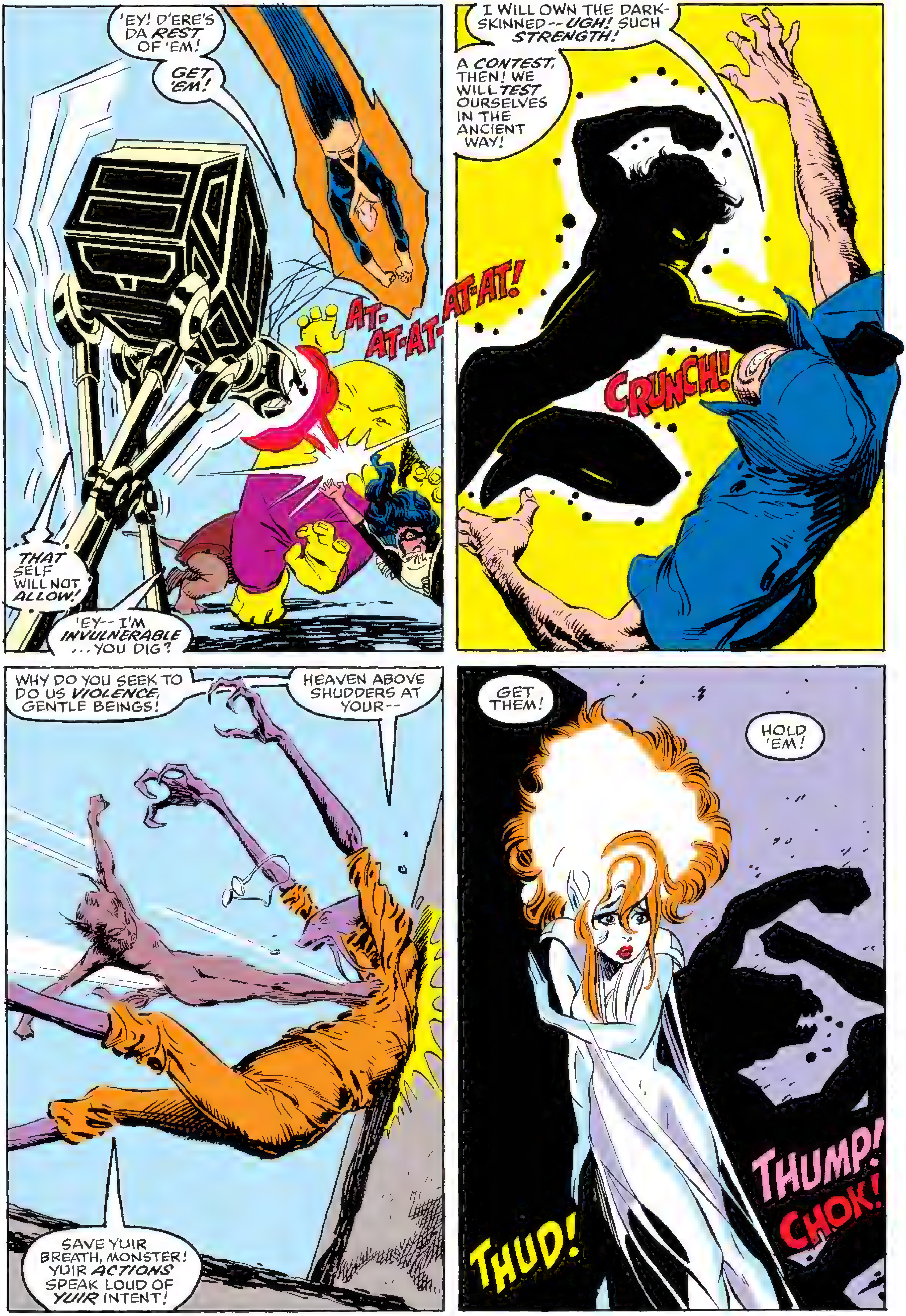

"EXCLAMATION: SELF WILL FIND SELFRIENDANI! SHE DOES NOT LIKE GOSAMYR. MAYBE SHE WILL HELP..."
THUD!
GET BACK, YOU TURKEYS! I'VE BEEN TRAINED TO FIGHT BY THE BEST...
...AND I'VE GOT OTHER WEAPONS THAN FEET!
YOU JERKS SEEM TO BE INTO PROFIT MOTIVE...
...SO LET'S SEE WHAT YOU WANT MOST!
THE BAUBLE OF BABLE!
IT WASN'T LOST ON OUR LAST CAPER! YOU STOLE IT!
BUT I WILL HAVE IT FOR MY OWN!
I GOT LUCKY THAT TIME!
I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY!
WHAT CAN I HAVE BEEN THINKING... LEAVING THE SHIP... WANDERING AROUND A STRANGE PORT, NO MATTER HOW BADLY MY HEAD ACHED...?
THUD! CHUFF!
I BETTER GET BACK BEFORE--
THERE IT COMES NOW!
GET IT!

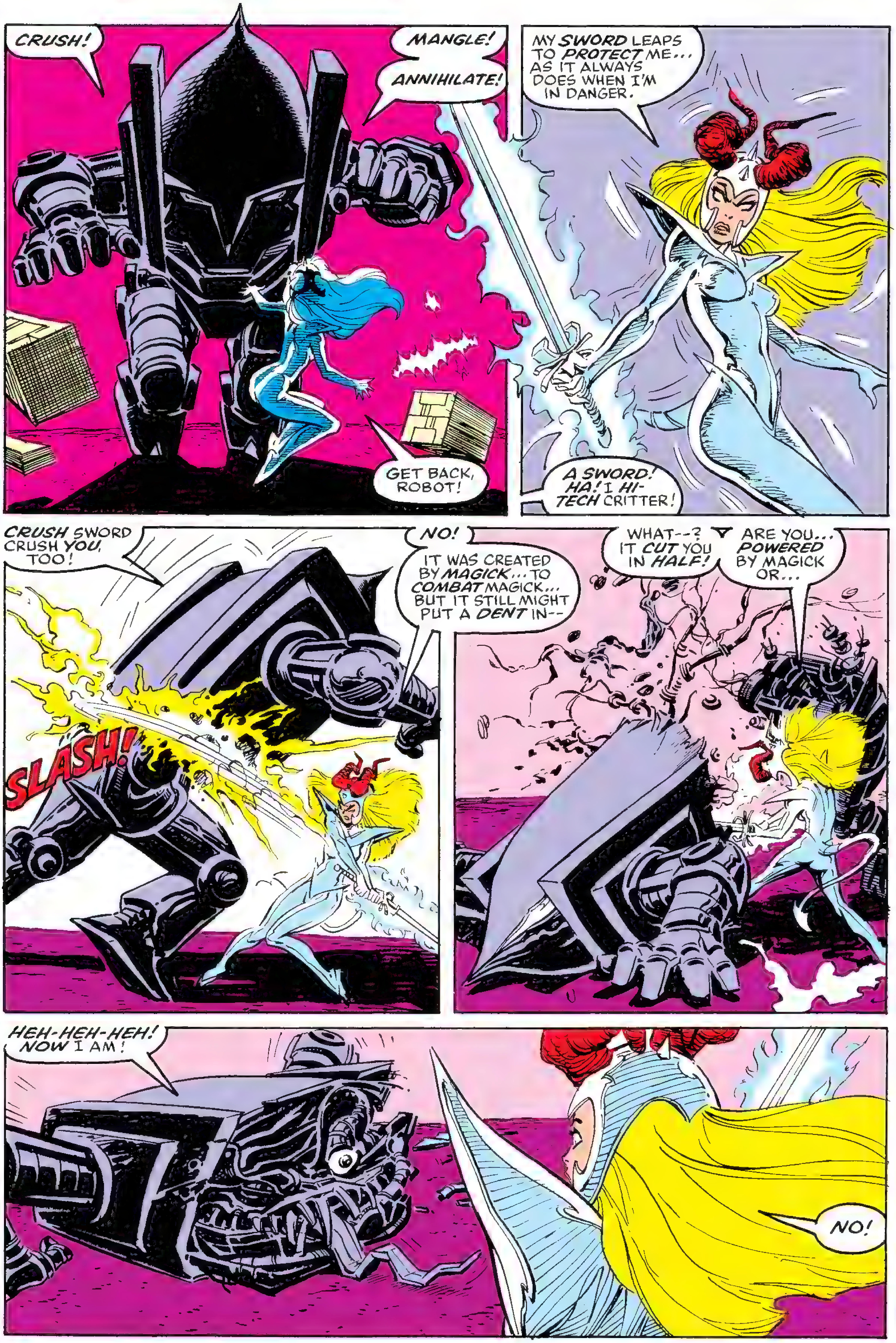

YOU'RE CRUISIN' FOR A BRUISIN', BOBBY! AH'D HATE TA HAFTA BUST YOUR TAIL!
IT WASN'T LIKE GOSAMYR SAID, SAM. IT *WAS* A MISTAKE. *REALLY.*
POOR LITTLE RAHNE. SHE'S POURING OUT HER HEART...AND SAM DOESN'T EVEN HEAR.
WARLOCK'S RIGHT. MAYBE FOCUSING ON EVIL *DOES* MAKE IT WORSE.
IT ALL SEEMS SO *OVERWHELMING.* MAYBE...IT'S *JUST* AS OVERWHELMING FOR RAHNE.
SHE STOOD BY ME... HELPED *ME*... AND I--
LISTEN, RAHNE, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...
YOU DON'T!
YOU *CAN'T!* JUST *LEAVE ME ALONE!*
RAHNE--? YOU *CAN'T* HIDE FROM THE WORLD IN YOUR *WOLF* FORM! TO FOCUS ON MISERY JUST MAKES IT *GROW!*
SELFRIENDS... SELF LOOKED ALL OVER THE SHIP! SELF CANNOT FIND *DANI*...
...AND EXTERIOR *HATCH* IS *OPEN!*
DANI--?!
ILLYANA! EVERYBODY! I FELT IT...THROUGH THE PSI-LINK DANI SHARES WITH *ANIMALS!*
SHE'S SURROUNDED BY *ALIEN ATTACKERS.*
OUT THERE! SEE--?

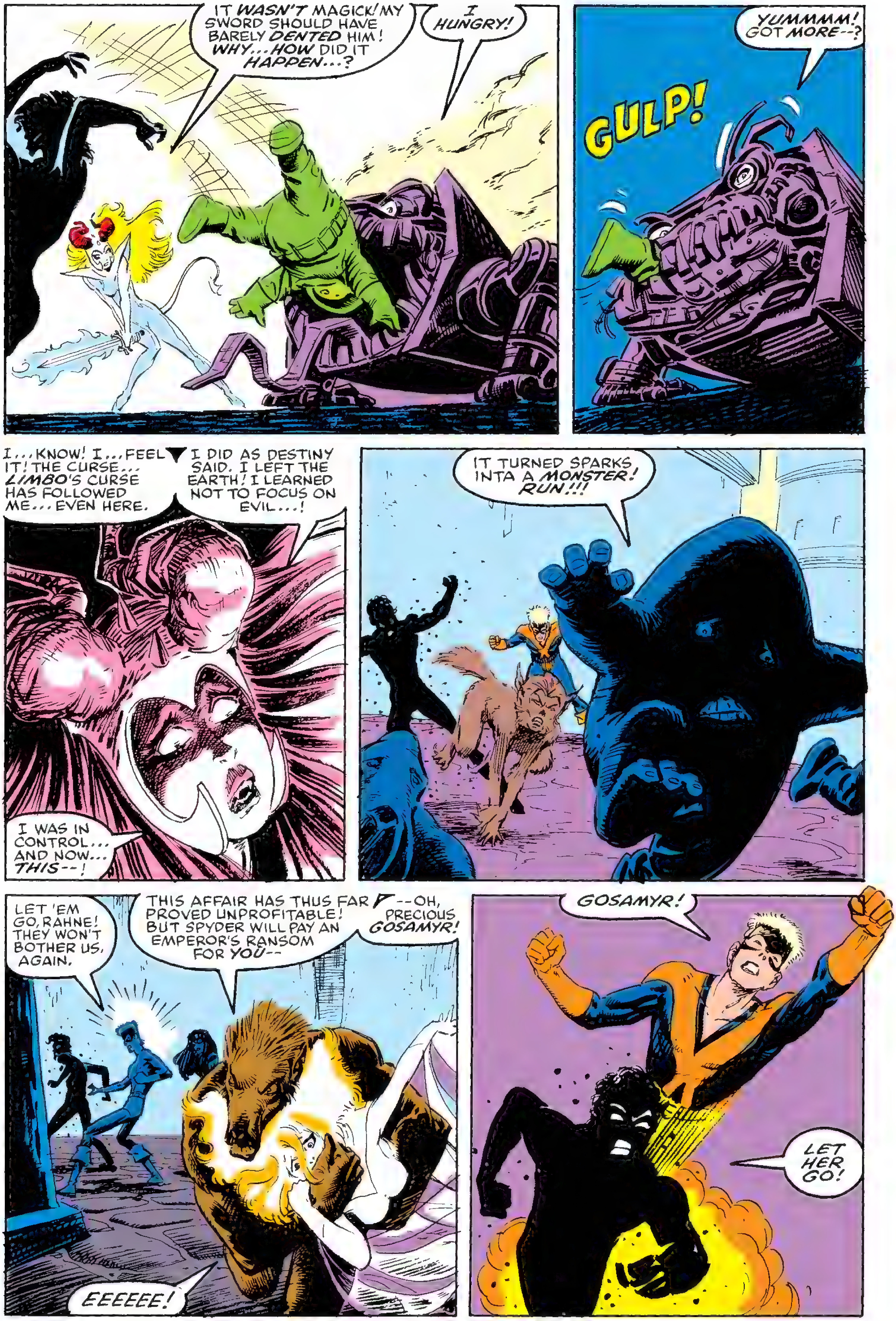

YES... BUT WHAT'S SHE DOING WAY OVER THERE! COME *ON!*
WE CAN TELEPORT THERE FASTER THAN WE CAN RUN--
HOLY COW!
THERE SHE IS!
TIME IS CLOSE!
GET HER!
AH SURE WISH THERE WAS SOME WAY WE COULD 'PORT FROM PLACE TA PLACE WITHOUT CUTTIN' THROUGH *LIMBO.*
SO DO I, SAM! BUT THE *STEPPING DISCS* ARE AS MUCH A *PART* OF LIMBO...
...AS AM I!
DARKCHILDE HAS DRAWN *SWORD!*
GET BACK!
ILLYANA, LEAVE THE SWORD HERE. PLEASE. IT WILL KEEP AT LEAST *ONE* SPOT IN LIMBO FREE OF THOSE VILE CREATURES.
...AND IT ONLY AFFECTS THINGS THAT ARE *MAGIC,* ANYWAY!
"WE WON'T *NEED* IT ON *SPYDER'S WORLD...*"
HEY! LOOK! WHILE *WE* BEEN FIGHTIN' EACH OTHER... THE *GRISSOM GANG* GOT TH' *ALIEN!*

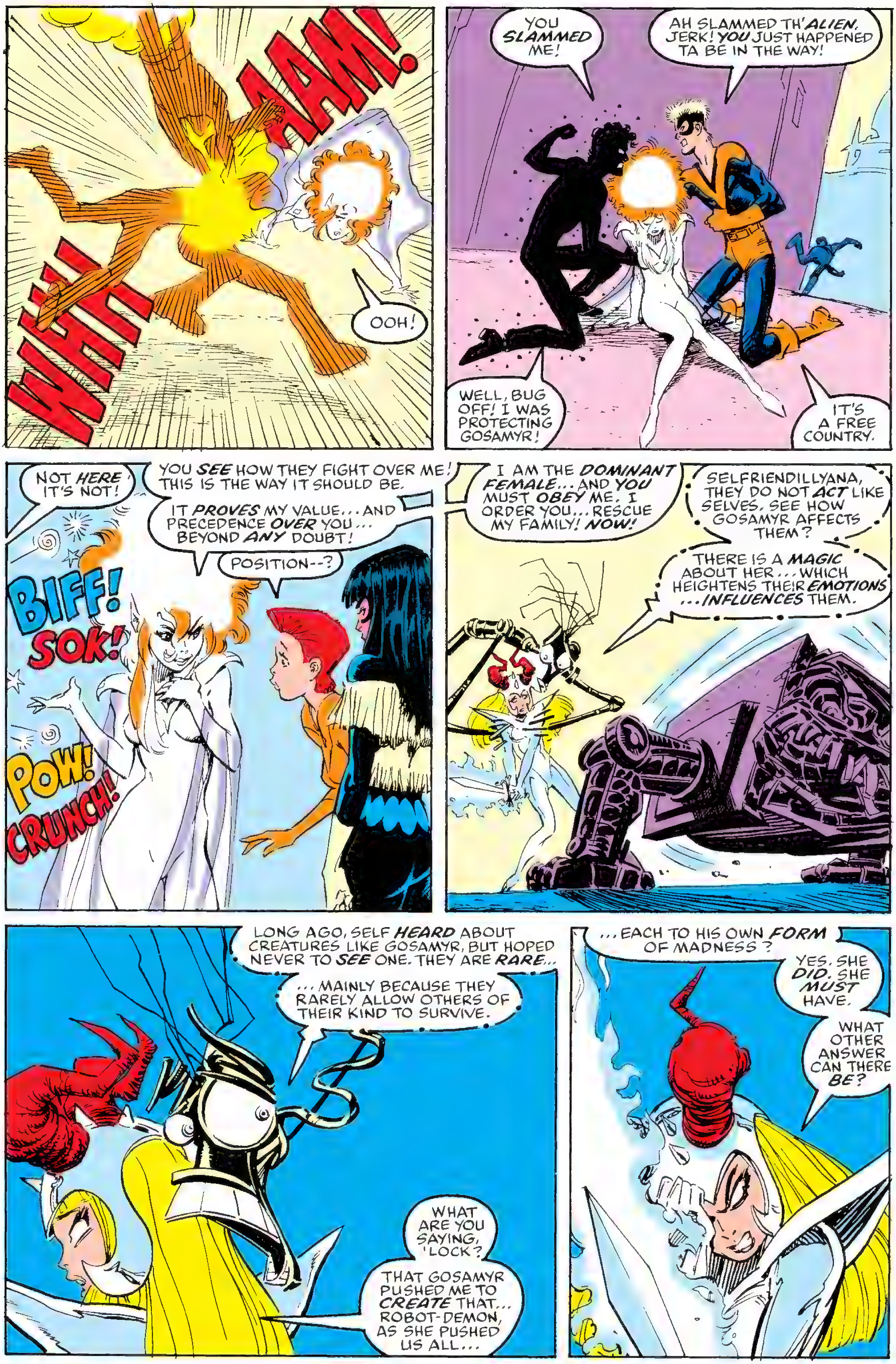

WHILE FAR AWAY IN NEW YORK STATE'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...
MY STUDENTS HAVE LEFT... AGAIN.
I ALLOWED SAM TO ATTEND LILA'S CONCERT... BUT THE OTHERS... DANI, BOBBY, RAHNE, ILLYANA... EVEN WARLOCK...
...WERE RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. NOW THEY, TOO, ARE GONE...
...WHERE OR ON WHAT HARE-BRAINED MISSION I DARE NOT EVEN GUESS...!
BEEP. BEEP. BEEP!
TAP!
AH... MISS FROST!
CALLING FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, MAGNUS.
MY STUDENTS HAVE HERE INFORMED ME OF A REPORTED ALIEN INVASION OF THE LILA CONCERT!
THE MEDIA ARE TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT AWAY AS SPECIAL EFFECTS, BUT--
WHAT... HAPPENED--?
THEY SAY... MONSTERS INVADED THE CONCERT HALL AND CARRIED LILA OFF.
THERE WAS A CONFUSED EFFORT TO STOP THEM.
MY STUDENTS THINK THE NEW MUTANTS WERE INVOLVED.
I'LL USE MY EQUIPMENT TO SCAN FOR THEM, MAGNUS, BUT THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL.
YOU'LL REALLY HAVE TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE MORE STRINGENTLY.
AND... THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER... DISTURBING EVENTS THAT REQUIRE OUR ATTENTION. I'M LEAVING FOR NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY.
I SUGGEST THAT YOU JOIN ME... AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
ALL I HAVE EVER WANTED FOR MUTANTKIND IS PEACE AND PROSPERITY.
I THOUGHT I HAD FOUND A BETTER WAY TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL... AND ESCHEWED MY OLD, VIOLENT WAYS.
I HAD HOPED TO FIND SOLACE AS TEACHER AND PROTECTOR OF THE YOUNG.
...AND PROTECT THEM ACTIVELY, IN THE WAY THAT I KNOW BEST.
BUT THEY REFUSE TO BE SAFEGUARDED. IF THEY ARE ON EARTH, I WILL FIND THEM...

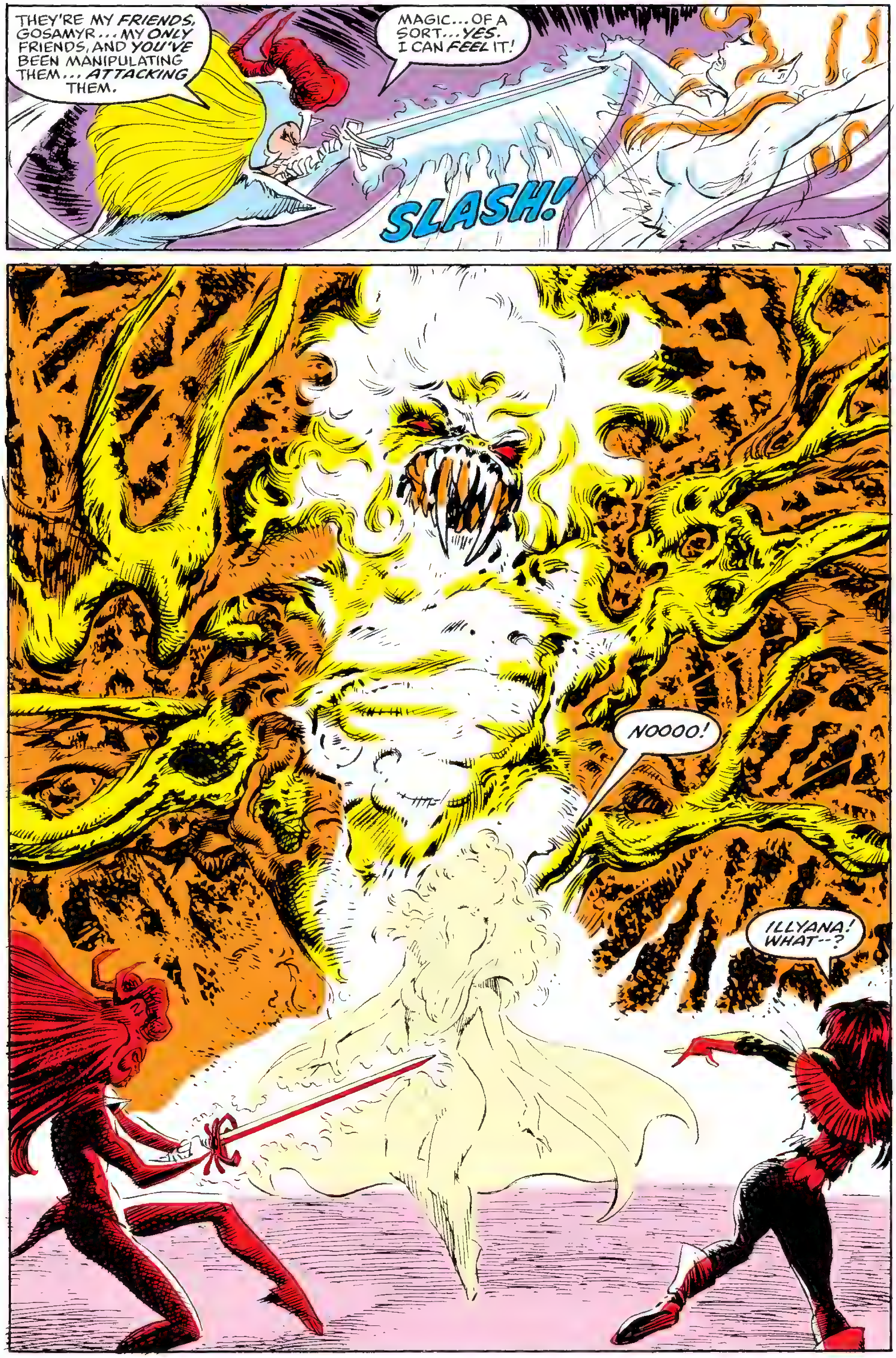

WHILE IN A DISTANT STAR-SYSTEM...
THERE THEY ARE!
THEY HAVE DANI!
DROP HER, YOU FILTHY THINGS!

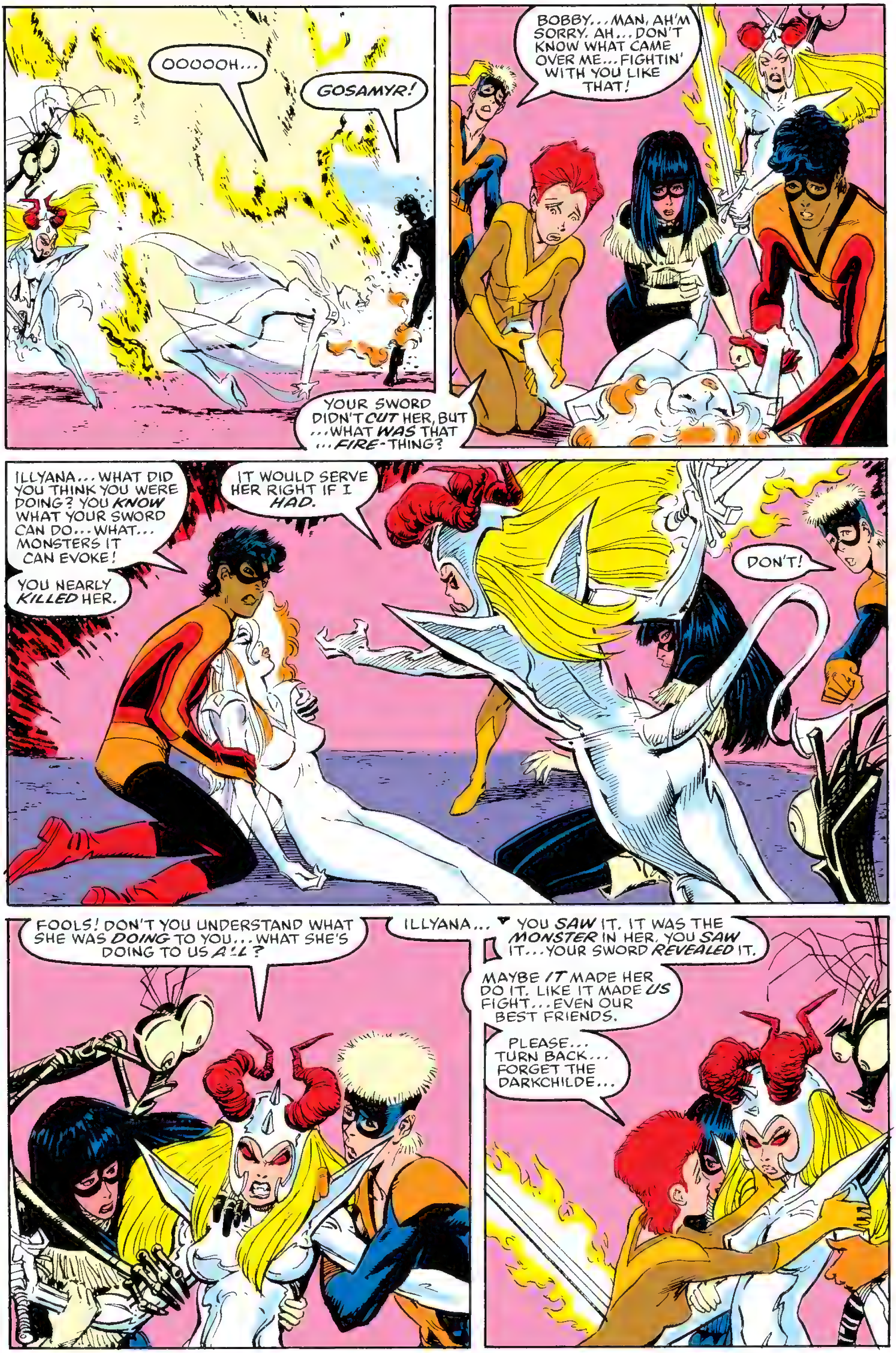

'EY! D'ERE'S DA *REST* OF 'EM!
GET 'EM!
AT-AT-AT-AT-AT!
THAT SELF WILL NOT *ALLOW!*
'EY-- I'M *INVULNERABLE* ...YOU DIG?
I WILL OWN THE DARK-SKINNED-- *UGH!* SUCH *STRENGTH!*
A *CONTEST,* THEN! WE WILL *TEST* OURSELVES IN THE ANCIENT WAY!
CRUNCH!
WHY DO YOU SEEK TO DO US *VIOLENCE,* GENTLE BEINGS!
HEAVEN ABOVE SHUDDERS AT YOUR--
SAVE YUIR BREATH, MONSTER! YUIR *ACTIONS* SPEAK LOUD OF *YUIR* INTENT!
GET THEM!
HOLD 'EM!
THUD!
THUMP!
CHOK!

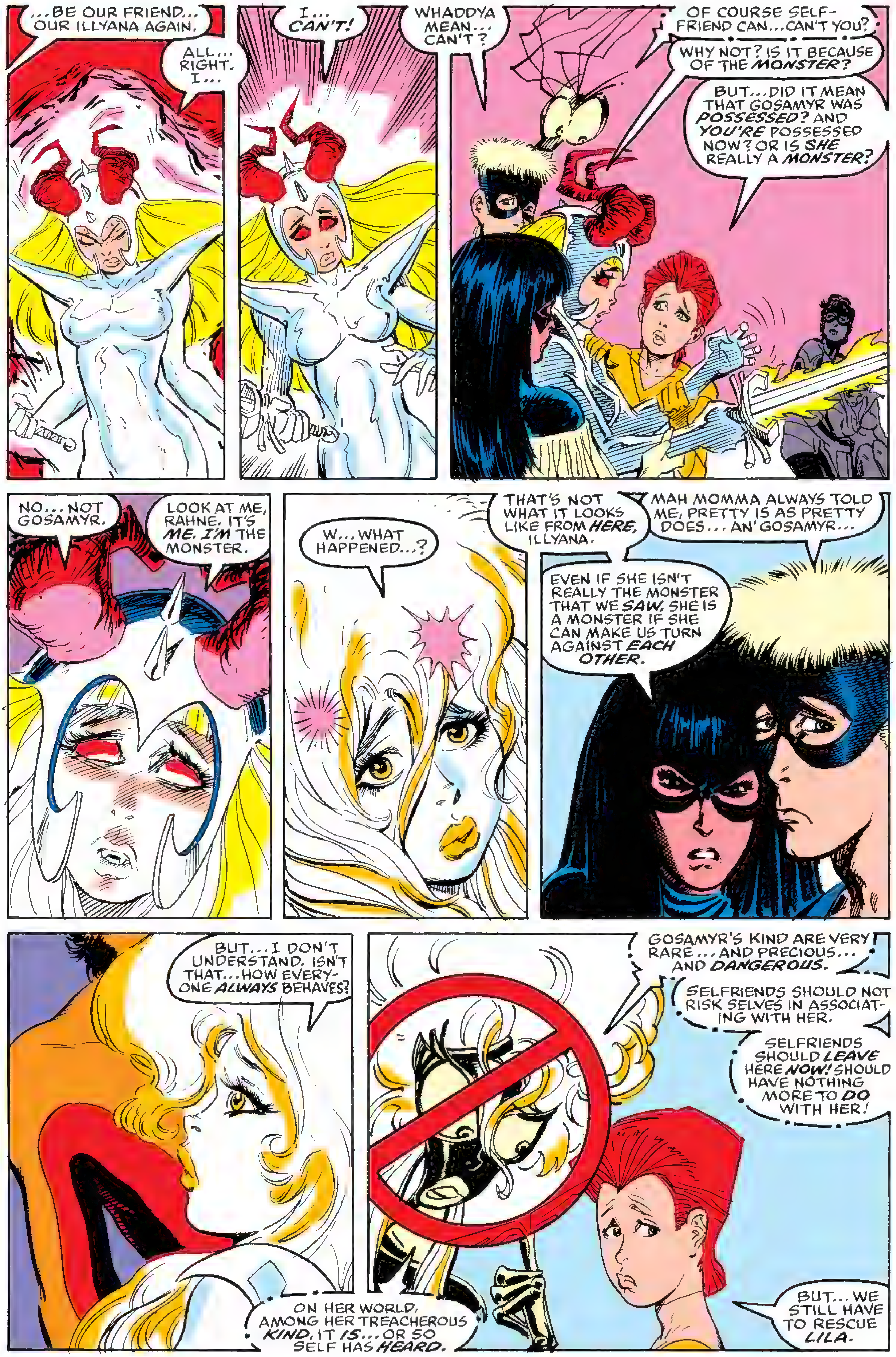

CRUSH!
MANGLE!
ANNIHILATE!
GET BACK, ROBOT!
MY SWORD LEAPS TO PROTECT ME... AS IT ALWAYS DOES WHEN I'M IN DANGER.
A SWORD! HA! I HI-TECH CRITTER!
CRUSH SWORD CRUSH YOU, TOO!
NO!
IT WAS CREATED BY MAGICK... TO COMBAT MAGICK... BUT IT STILL MIGHT PUT A DENT IN--
SLASH!
WHAT--? IT CUT YOU IN HALF!
ARE YOU... POWERED BY MAGICK OR...
HEH-HEH-HEH! NOW I AM!
NO!

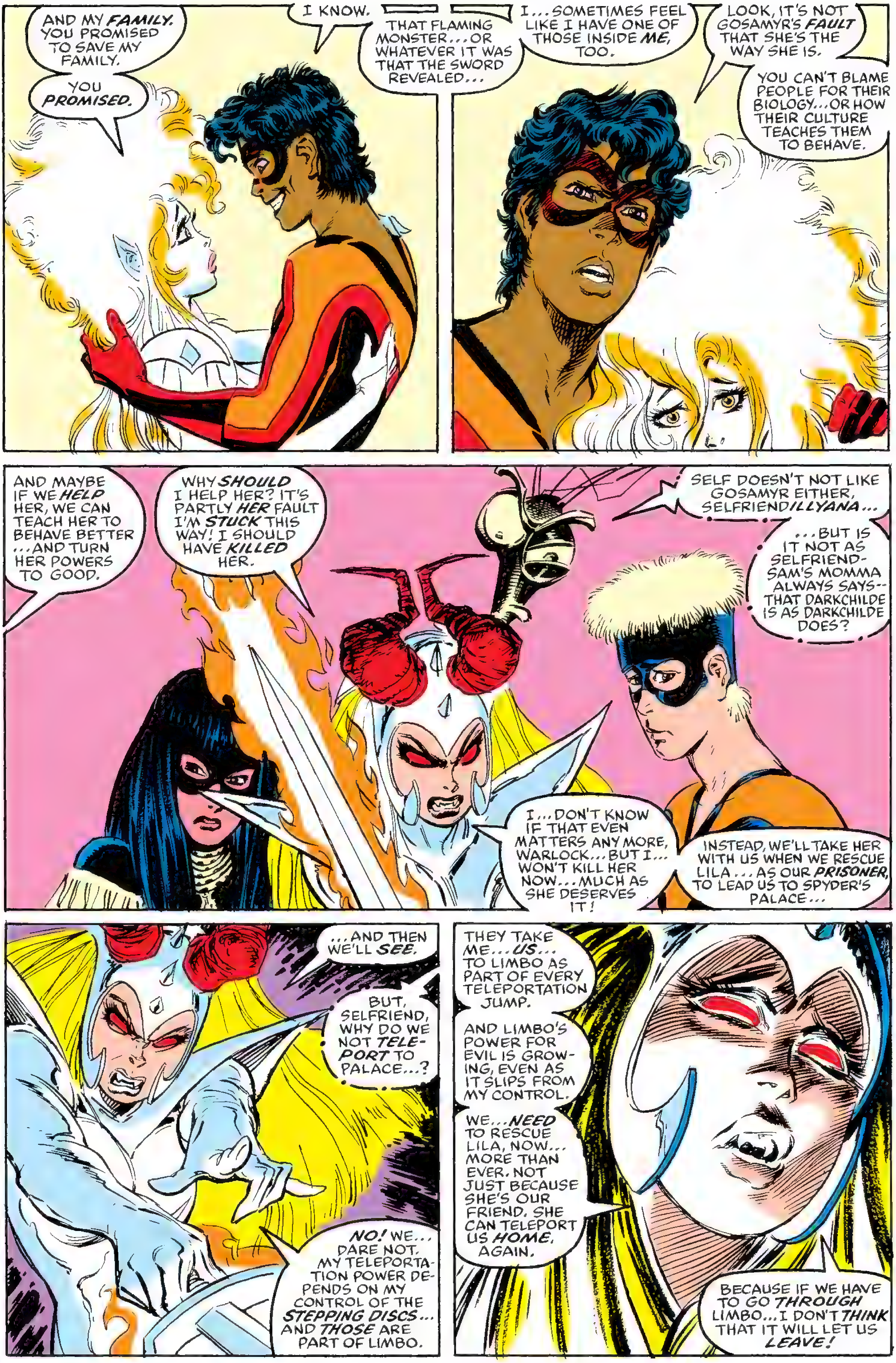

IT WASN'T MAGICK! MY SWORD SHOULD HAVE BARELY DENTED HIM! WHY...HOW DID IT HAPPEN...?
I HUNGRY!
YUMMMMM! GOT MORE--?
GULP!
I...KNOW! I...FEEL IT! THE CURSE... LIMBO'S CURSE HAS FOLLOWED ME...EVEN HERE.
I DID AS DESTINY SAID. I LEFT THE EARTH! I LEARNED NOT TO FOCUS ON EVIL...!
I WAS IN CONTROL... AND NOW... THIS--!
IT TURNED SPARKS INTA A MONSTER! RUN!!!
LET 'EM GO, RAHNE! THEY WON'T BOTHER US, AGAIN.
THIS AFFAIR HAS THUS FAR PROVED UNPROFITABLE! BUT SPYDER WILL PAY AN EMPEROR'S RANSOM FOR YOU--
--OH, PRECIOUS GOSAMYR!
EEEEEE!
GOSAMYR!
LET HER GO!

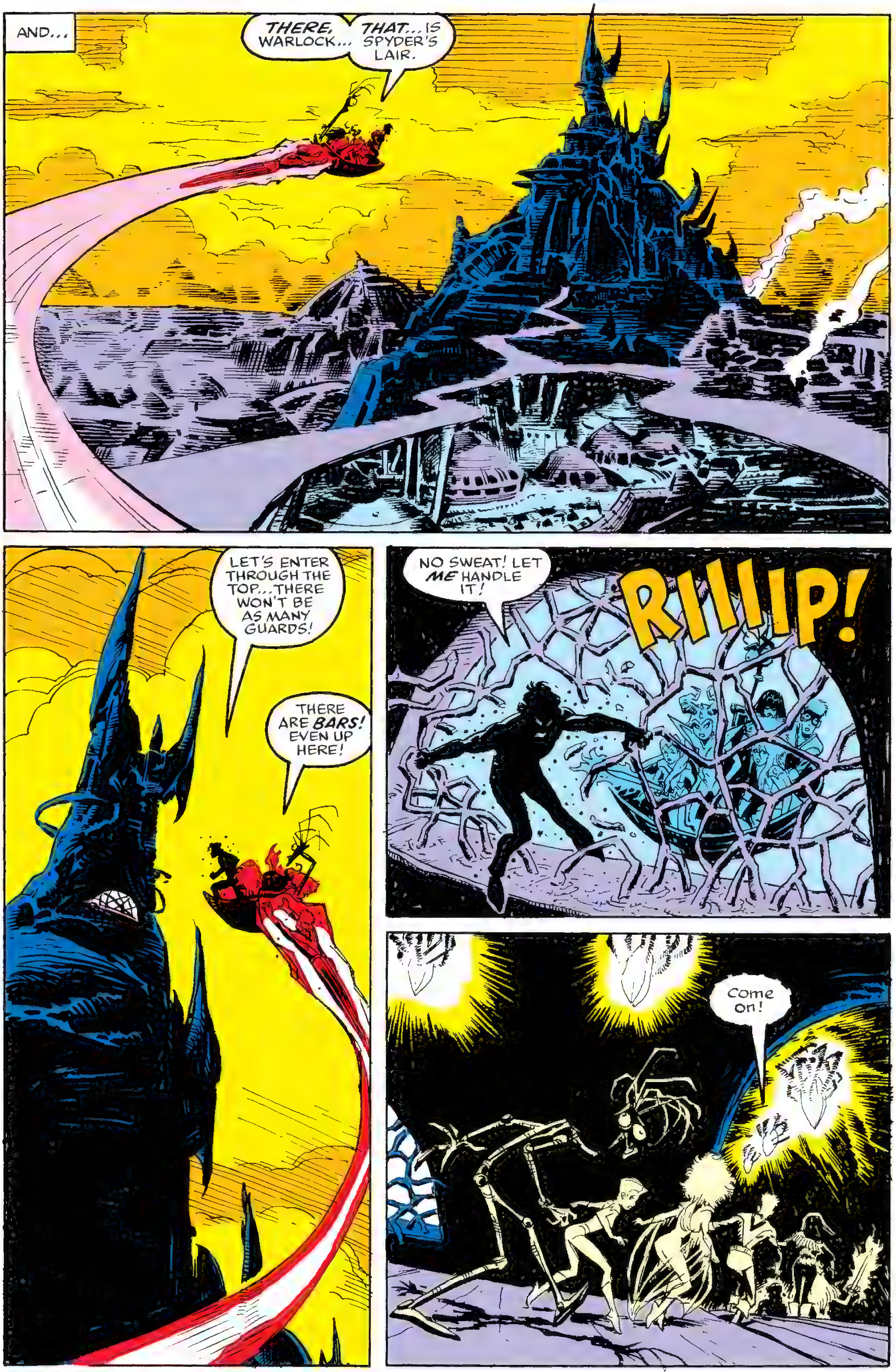

WHHAAM!
OOH!
YOU SLAMMED ME!
AH SLAMMED TH' ALIEN, JERK! YOU JUST HAPPENED TA BE IN THE WAY!
WELL, BUG OFF! I WAS PROTECTING GOSAMYR!
IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.
NOT HERE IT'S NOT!
YOU SEE HOW THEY FIGHT OVER ME! THIS IS THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.
IT PROVES MY VALUE... AND PRECEDENCE OVER YOU... BEYOND ANY DOUBT!
POSITION--?
BIFF!
SOK!
POW!
CRUNCH!
I AM THE DOMINANT FEMALE... AND YOU MUST OBEY ME. I ORDER YOU... RESCUE MY FAMILY! NOW!
SELFRIENDILLYANA, THEY DO NOT ACT LIKE SELVES. SEE HOW GOSAMYR AFFECTS THEM?
THERE IS A MAGIC ABOUT HER... WHICH HEIGHTENS THEIR EMOTIONS ...INFLUENCES THEM.
LONG AGO, SELF HEARD ABOUT CREATURES LIKE GOSAMYR, BUT HOPED NEVER TO SEE ONE. THEY ARE RARE...
...MAINLY BECAUSE THEY RARELY ALLOW OTHERS OF THEIR KIND TO SURVIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, 'LOCK?
THAT GOSAMYR PUSHED ME TO CREATE THAT... ROBOT-DEMON, AS SHE PUSHED US ALL...
...EACH TO HIS OWN FORM OF MADNESS?
YES. SHE DID. SHE MUST HAVE.
WHAT OTHER ANSWER CAN THERE BE?

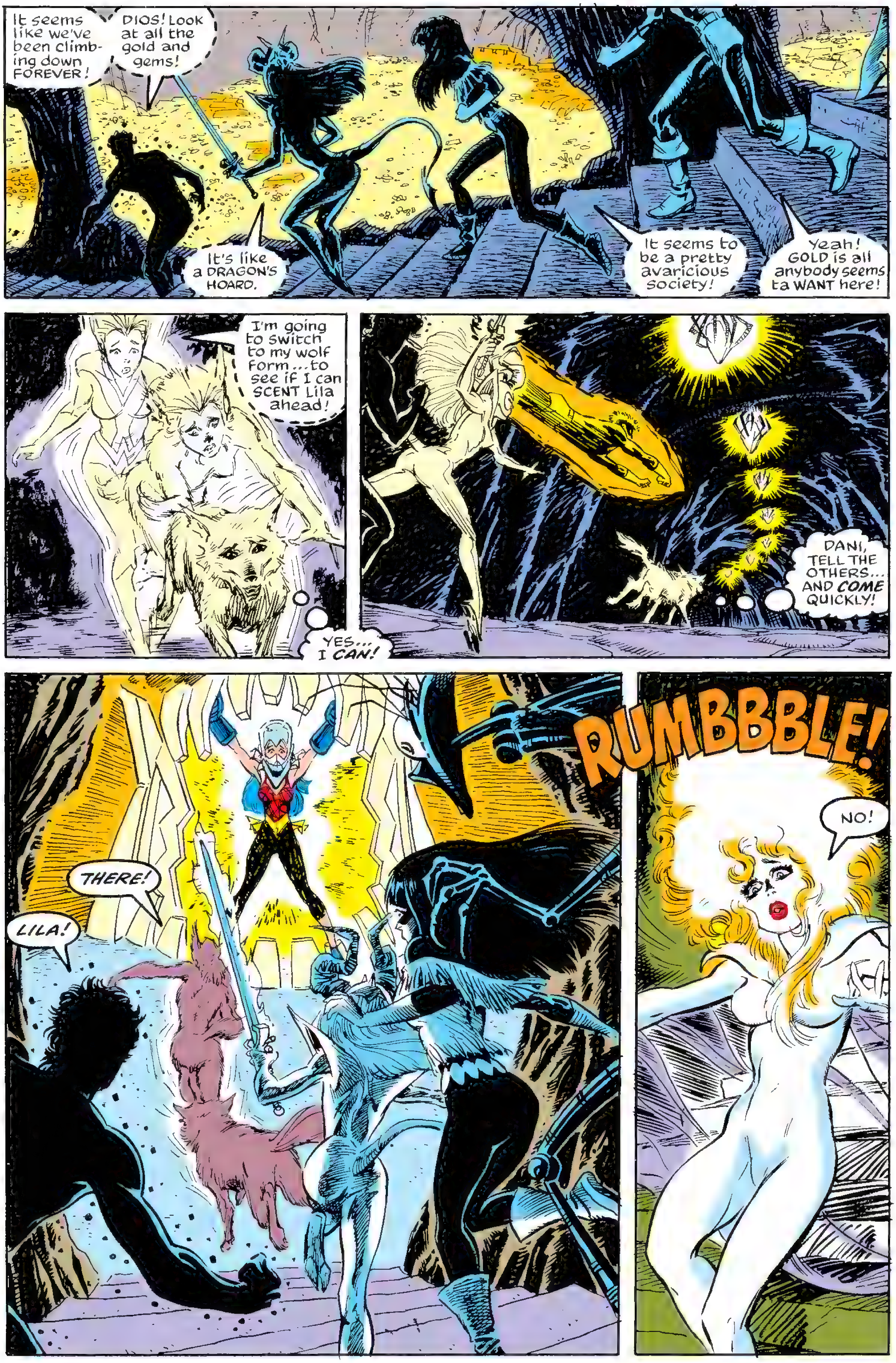

THEY'RE MY FRIENDS, GOSAMYR... MY ONLY FRIENDS, AND YOU'VE BEEN MANIPULATING THEM... ATTACKING THEM.
MAGIC... OF A SORT... YES. I CAN FEEL IT!
SLASH!
NOOOO!
ILLYANA! WHAT--?

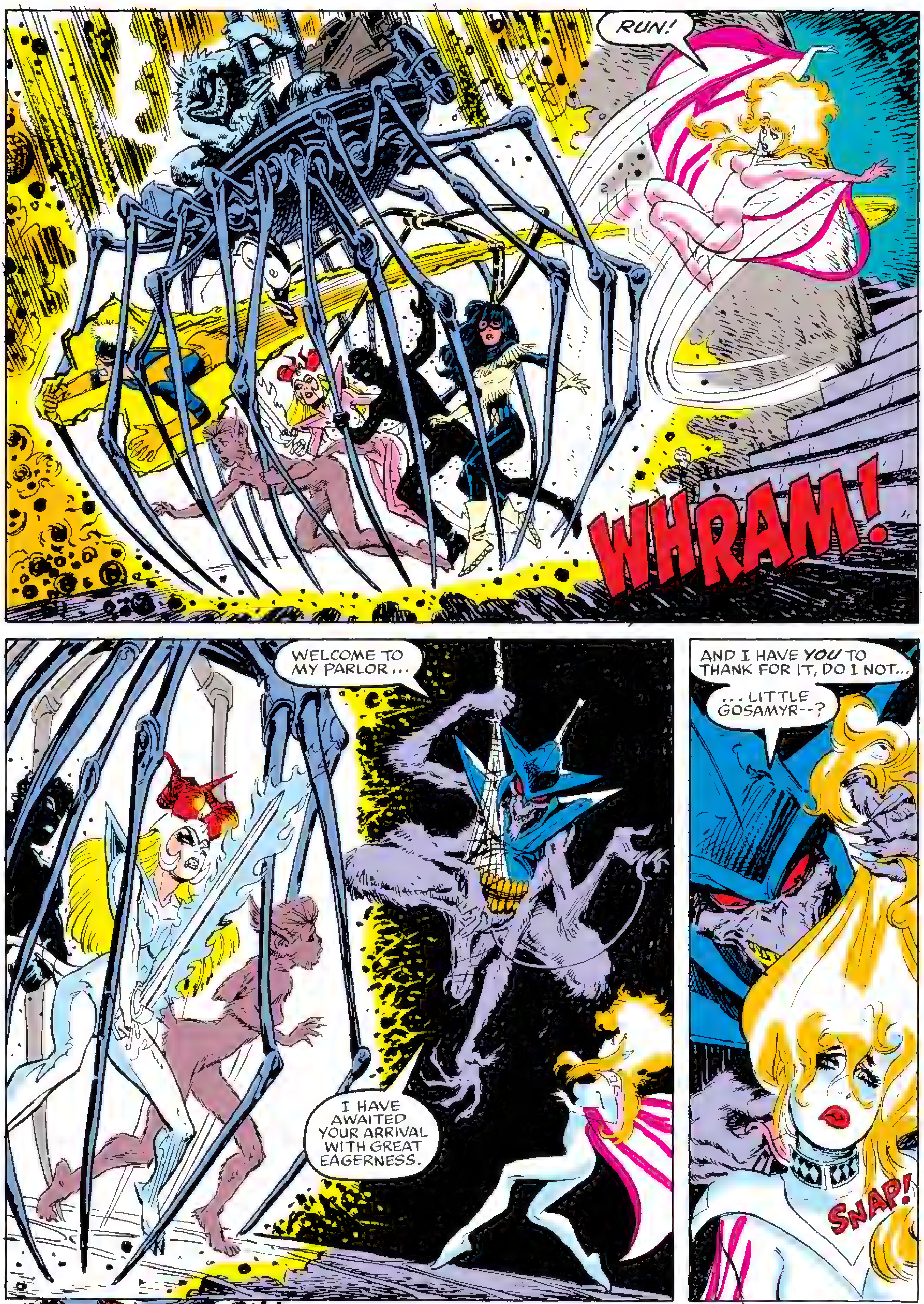

OOOOOH...
GOSAMYR!
BOBBY... MAN, AH'M SORRY. AH... DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME... FIGHTIN' WITH YOU LIKE THAT!
YOUR SWORD DIDN'T *CUT* HER, BUT ...WHAT *WAS* THAT ...*FIRE*-THING?
ILLYANA... WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING? YOU *KNOW* WHAT YOUR SWORD CAN DO... WHAT... MONSTERS IT CAN EVOKE!
YOU NEARLY *KILLED* HER.
IT WOULD SERVE HER RIGHT IF I *HAD*.
DON'T!
FOOLS! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS *DOING* TO YOU... WHAT SHE'S DOING TO US *ALL*?
ILLYANA...
YOU *SAW* IT. IT WAS THE *MONSTER* IN HER. YOU *SAW* IT... YOUR SWORD *REVEALED* IT.
MAYBE *IT* MADE HER DO IT. LIKE IT MADE *US* FIGHT... EVEN OUR BEST FRIENDS.
PLEASE... TURN BACK... FORGET THE DARKCHILDE...


...BE OUR FRIEND... OUR ILLYANA AGAIN.
ALL... RIGHT. I...
I... CAN'T!
WHADDYA MEAN... CAN'T?
OF COURSE SELF-FRIEND CAN... CAN'T YOU?
WHY NOT? IS IT BECAUSE OF THE MONSTER?
BUT... DID IT MEAN THAT GOSAMYR WAS POSSESSED? AND YOU'RE POSSESSED NOW? OR IS SHE REALLY A MONSTER?
NO... NOT GOSAMYR.
LOOK AT ME, RAHNE. IT'S ME. I'M THE MONSTER.
W... WHAT HAPPENED...?
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM HERE, ILLYANA.
MAH MOMMA ALWAYS TOLD ME, PRETTY IS AS PRETTY DOES... AN' GOSAMYR...
EVEN IF SHE ISN'T REALLY THE MONSTER THAT WE SAW, SHE IS A MONSTER IF SHE CAN MAKE US TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER.
BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ISN'T THAT... HOW EVERYONE ALWAYS BEHAVES?
ON HER WORLD, AMONG HER TREACHEROUS KIND, IT IS... OR SO SELF HAS HEARD.
GOSAMYR'S KIND ARE VERY RARE... AND PRECIOUS... AND DANGEROUS.
SELFRIENDS SHOULD NOT RISK SELVES IN ASSOCIATING WITH HER.
SELFRIENDS SHOULD LEAVE HERE NOW! SHOULD HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH HER!
BUT... WE STILL HAVE TO RESCUE LILA.


AND MY *FAMILY.* YOU PROMISED TO SAVE MY FAMILY.
YOU *PROMISED.*
I KNOW.
THAT FLAMING MONSTER... OR WHATEVER IT WAS THAT THE SWORD REVEALED...
I... SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE I HAVE ONE OF THOSE INSIDE *ME,* TOO.
LOOK, IT'S NOT GOSAMYR'S *FAULT* THAT SHE'S THE WAY SHE IS.
YOU CAN'T BLAME PEOPLE FOR THEIR BIOLOGY... OR HOW THEIR CULTURE TEACHES THEM TO BEHAVE.
AND MAYBE IF WE *HELP* HER, WE CAN TEACH HER TO BEHAVE BETTER ...AND TURN HER POWERS TO GOOD.
WHY *SHOULD* I HELP HER? IT'S PARTLY *HER* FAULT I'M *STUCK* THIS WAY! I SHOULD HAVE *KILLED* HER.
SELF DOESN'T NOT LIKE GOSAMYR EITHER, SELFRIEND *ILLYANA...*
...BUT IS IT NOT AS SELFRIEND-SAM'S MOMMA ALWAYS SAYS--THAT DARKCHILDE IS AS DARKCHILDE DOES?
I... DON'T KNOW IF THAT EVEN MATTERS ANY MORE, WARLOCK... BUT I... WON'T KILL HER NOW... MUCH AS SHE DESERVES IT!
INSTEAD, WE'LL TAKE HER WITH US WHEN WE RESCUE LILA... AS OUR *PRISONER,* TO LEAD US TO SPYDER'S PALACE...
...AND THEN WE'LL *SEE.*
BUT, SELFRIEND, WHY DO WE NOT *TELEPORT* TO PALACE...?
NO! WE... DARE NOT. MY TELEPORTATION POWER DEPENDS ON MY CONTROL OF THE *STEPPING DISCS...* AND *THOSE* ARE PART OF LIMBO.
THEY TAKE ME... *US...* TO LIMBO AS PART OF EVERY TELEPORTATION JUMP.
AND LIMBO'S POWER FOR EVIL IS GROWING, EVEN AS IT SLIPS FROM MY CONTROL.
WE... *NEED* TO RESCUE LILA, NOW... MORE THAN EVER. NOT JUST BECAUSE SHE'S OUR FRIEND. SHE CAN TELEPORT US *HOME,* AGAIN.
BECAUSE IF WE HAVE TO GO *THROUGH* LIMBO... I DON'T *THINK* THAT IT WILL LET US *LEAVE!*


AND...
THERE, WARLOCK...
THAT...IS SPYDER'S LAIR.
LET'S ENTER THROUGH THE TOP...THERE WON'T BE AS MANY GUARDS!
THERE ARE BARS! EVEN UP HERE!
NO SWEAT! LET ME HANDLE IT!
RIIIIP!
Come on!


It seems like we've been climbing down FOREVER!
DIOS! Look at all the gold and gems!
It's like a DRAGON'S HOARD.
It seems to be a pretty avaricious society!
Yeah! GOLD is all anybody seems ta WANT here!
I'm going to switch to my wolf form...to see if I can SCENT Lila ahead!
YES... I CAN!
DANI, TELL THE OTHERS... AND COME QUICKLY!
THERE!
LILA!
RUMBBBLE!
NO!


RUN!
WHRAM!
WELCOME TO MY PARLOR...
I HAVE AWAITED YOUR ARRIVAL WITH GREAT EAGERNESS.
AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR IT, DO I NOT...
...LITTLE GOSAMYR--?
SNAP!

*TRAPPED BY A **FOUR-ARMED MANIAC** ON A **DISTANT PLANET**! CAN THINGS GET MUCH WORSE THAN THIS? **SURE** THEY CAN-- NEXT ISSUE IN--*

SELF-FULFILLING PROPHESY!

*(**INFERNO** IS ONLY AN ISSUE AWAY!)*

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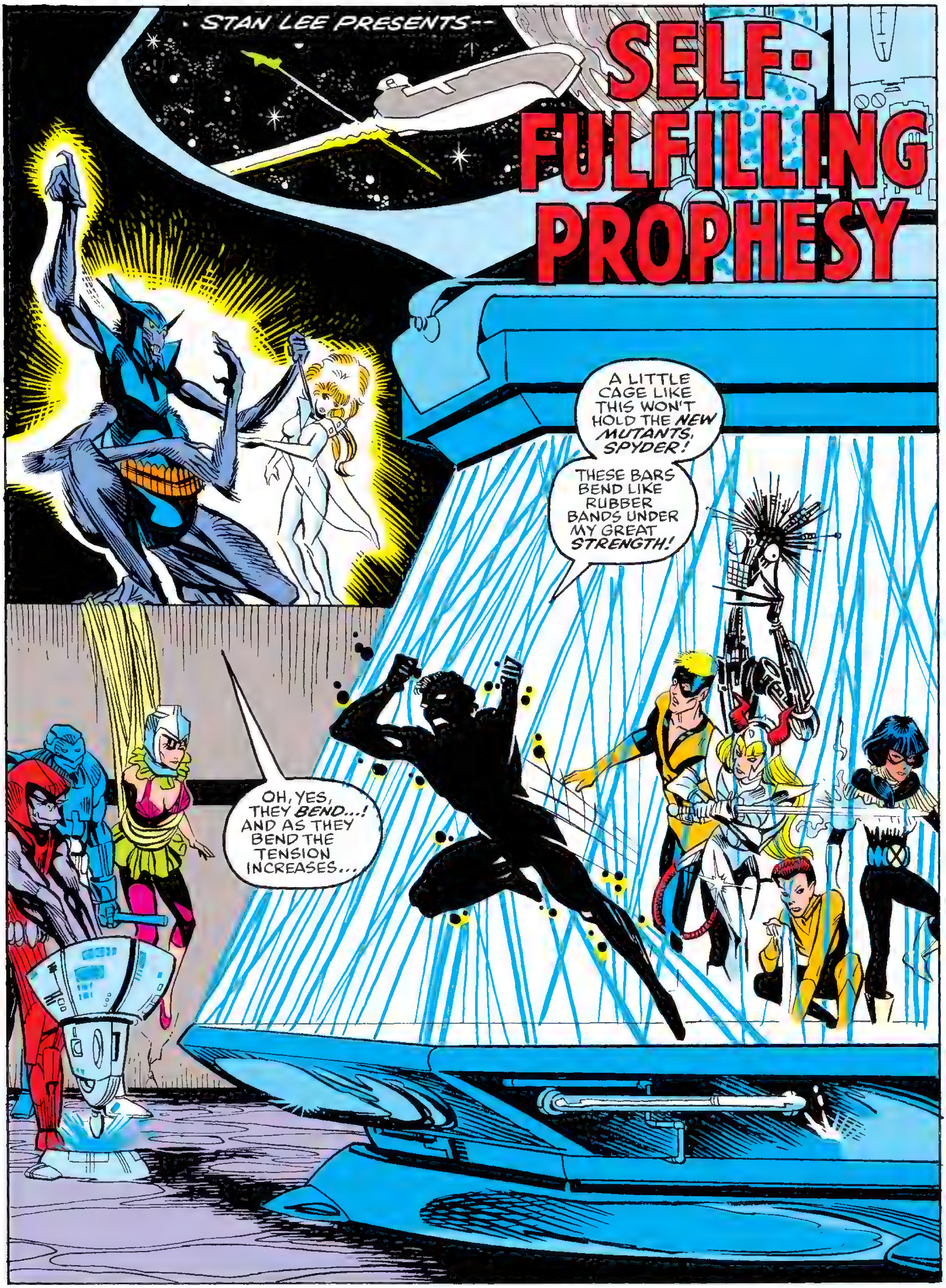
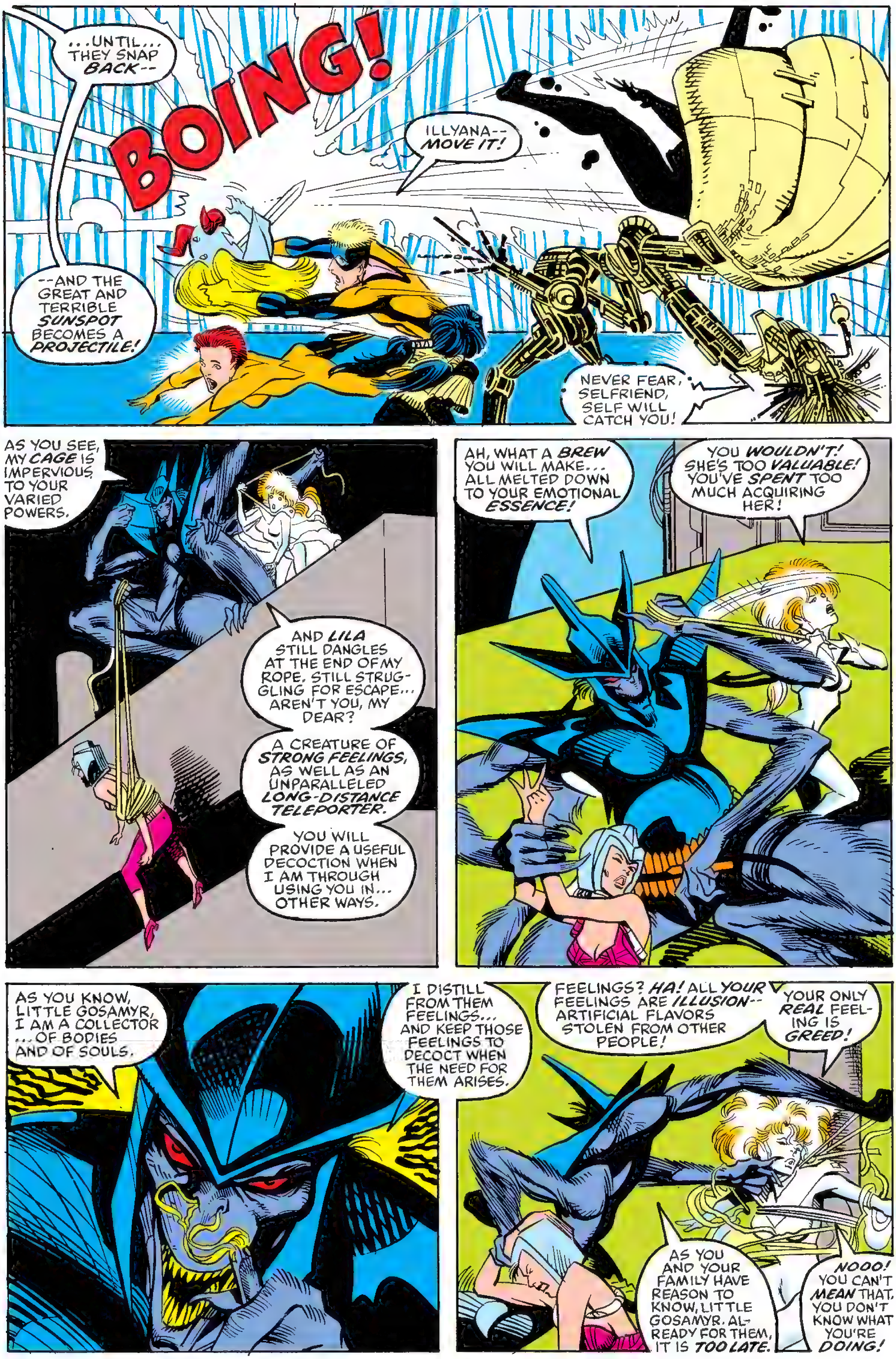
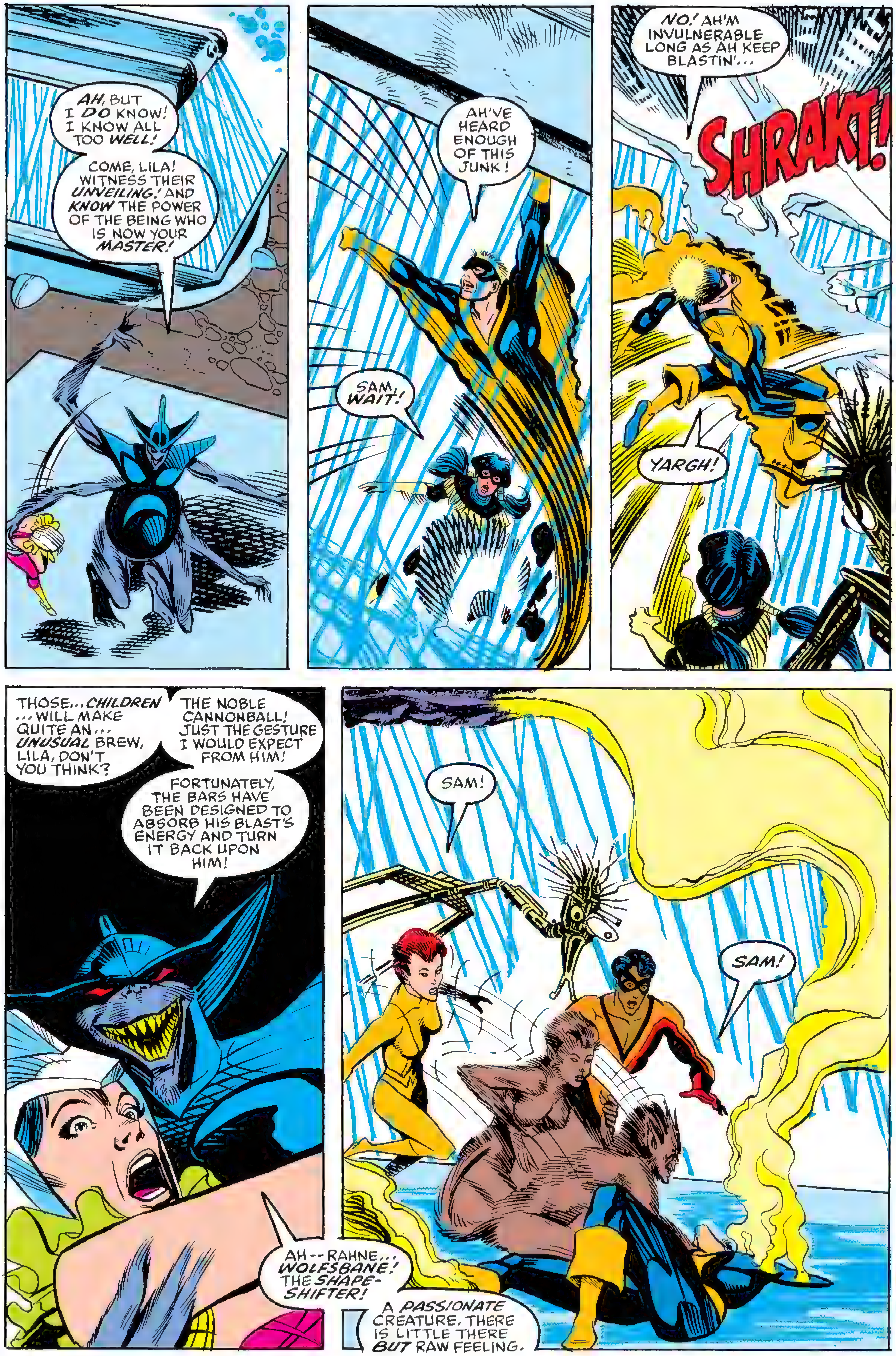
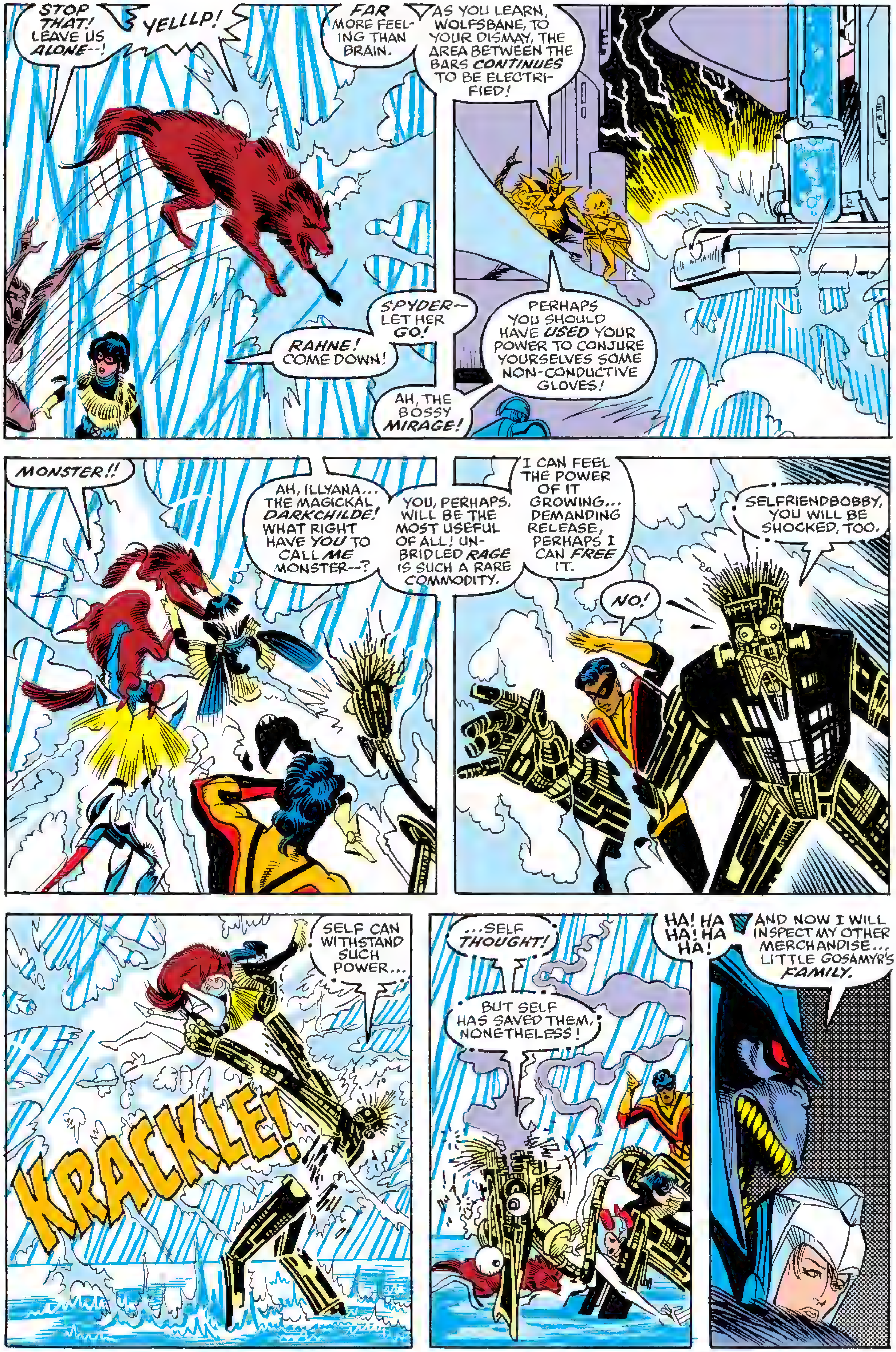
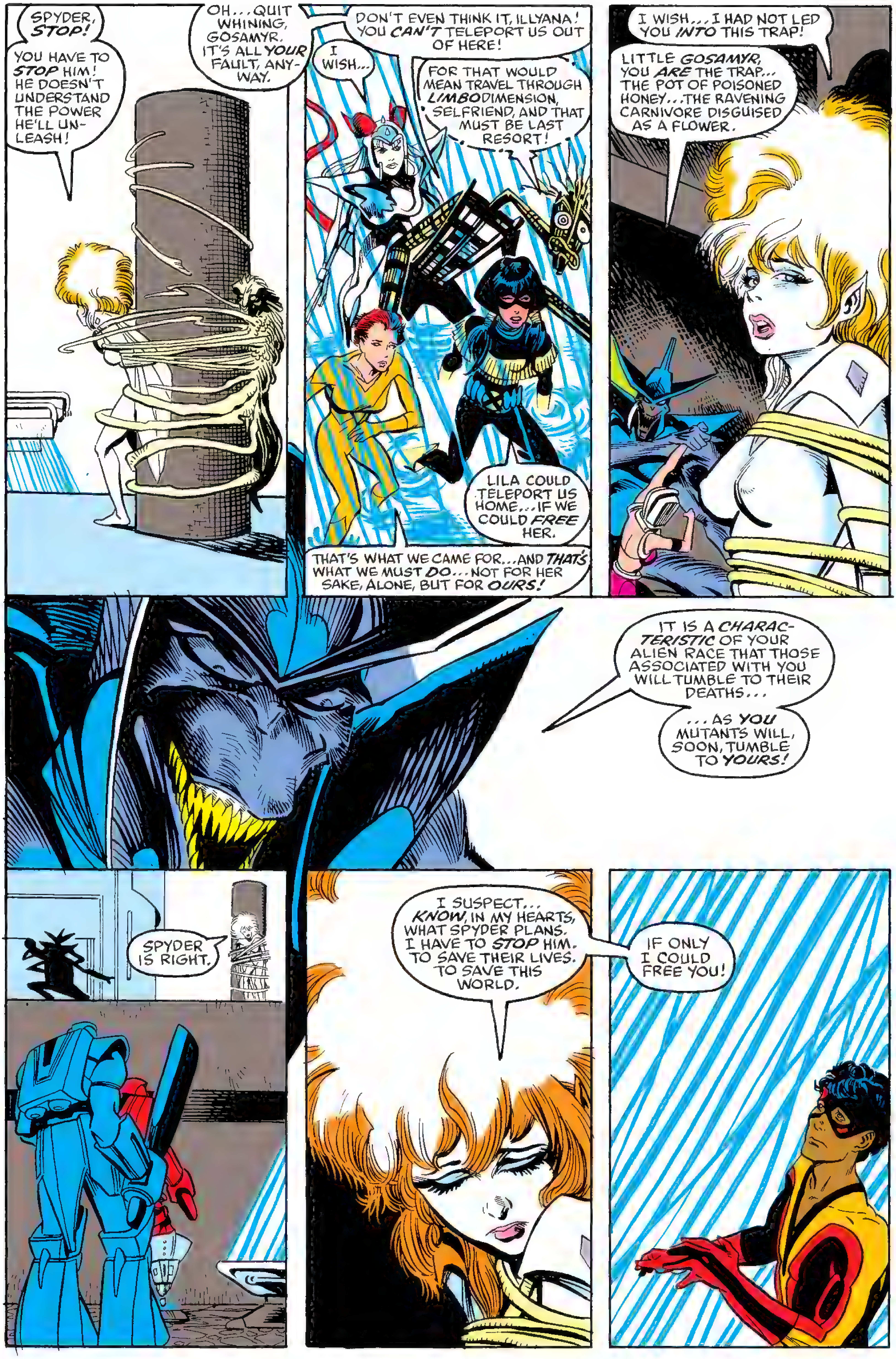

STAN LEE PRESENTS--
SELF-FULFILLING PROPHESY
A LITTLE CAGE LIKE THIS WON'T HOLD THE *NEW MUTANTS, SPYDER!*
THESE BARS BEND LIKE RUBBER BANDS UNDER MY GREAT *STRENGTH!*
OH, YES, THEY *BEND...!* AND AS THEY BEND THE TENSION INCREASES...

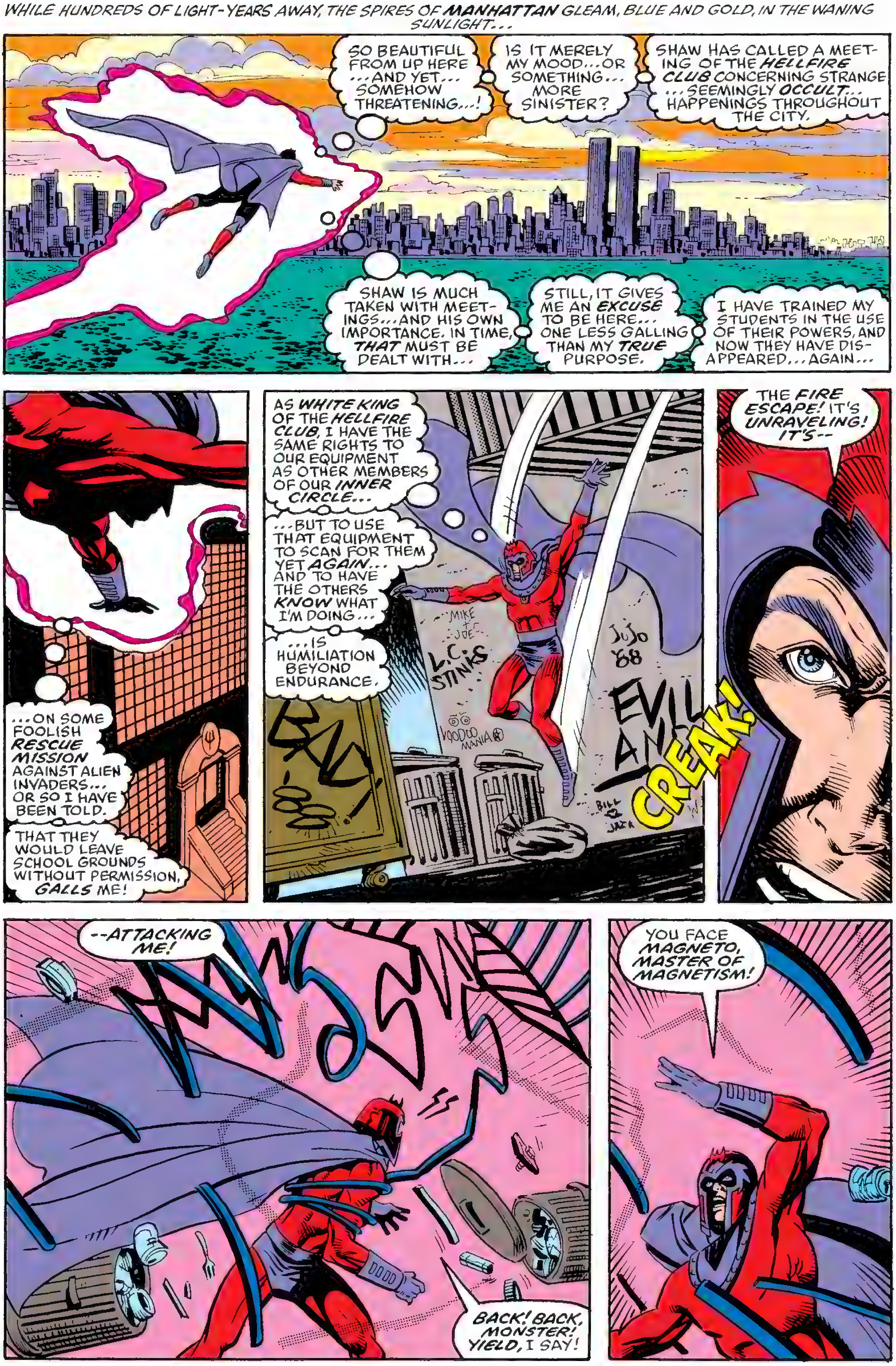
LOUISE SIMONSON WRITER · TERRY SHOEMAKER PENCILER · AL MILGROM INKER · JOE ROSEN LETTERER · GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST · BOB HARRAS EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

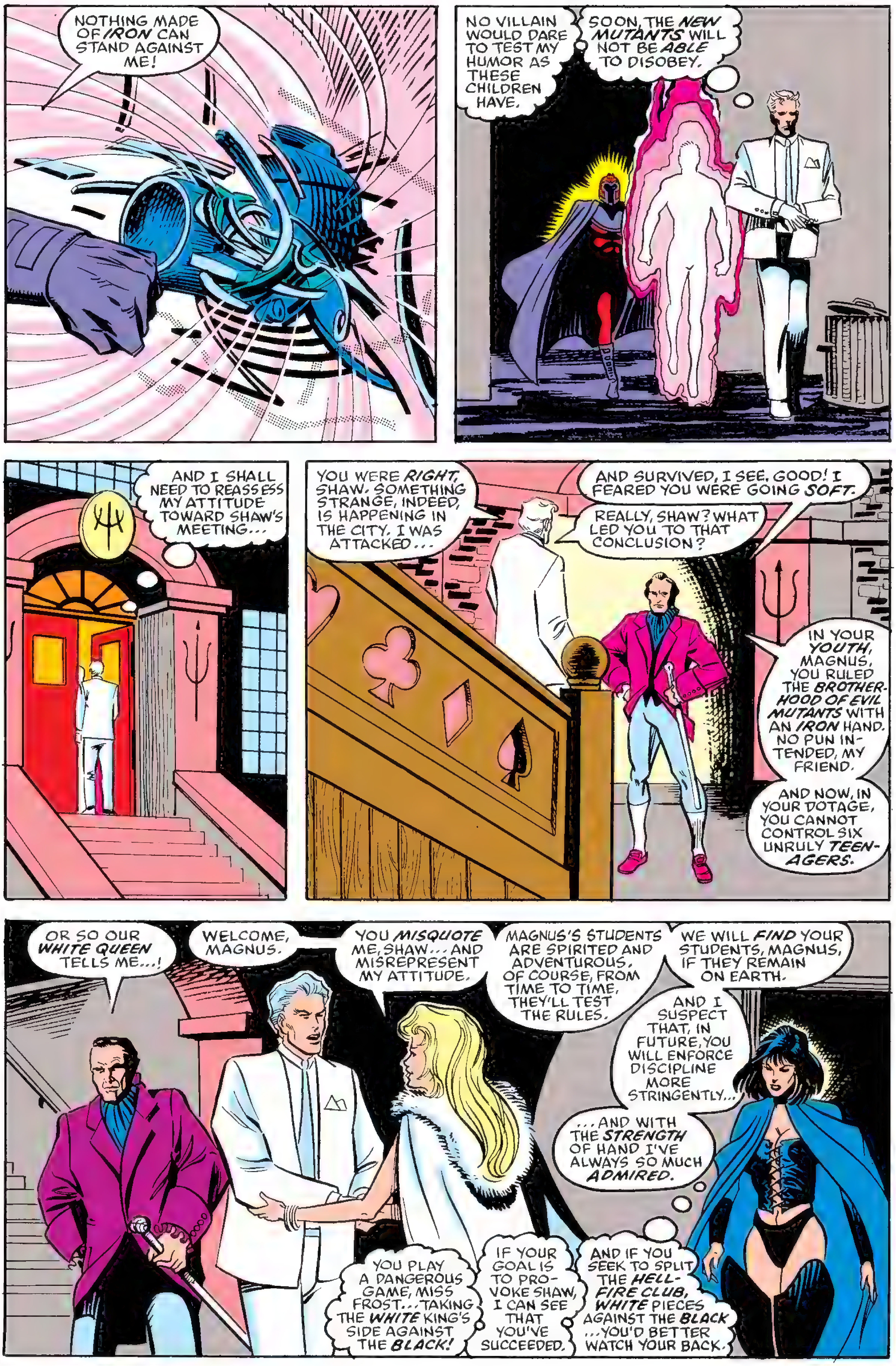

...UNTIL... THEY SNAP BACK--
BOING!
ILLYANA-- MOVE IT!
--AND THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE SUNSPOT BECOMES A PROJECTILE!
NEVER FEAR, SELFRIEND, SELF WILL CATCH YOU!
AS YOU SEE, MY CAGE IS IMPERVIOUS TO YOUR VARIED POWERS.
AND LILA STILL DANGLES AT THE END OF MY ROPE. STILL STRUGGLING FOR ESCAPE... AREN'T YOU, MY DEAR?
A CREATURE OF STRONG FEELINGS, AS WELL AS AN UNPARALLELED LONG-DISTANCE TELEPORTER.
YOU WILL PROVIDE A USEFUL DECOCTION WHEN I AM THROUGH USING YOU IN... OTHER WAYS.
AH, WHAT A BREW YOU WILL MAKE... ALL MELTED DOWN TO YOUR EMOTIONAL ESSENCE!
YOU WOULDN'T! SHE'S TOO VALUABLE! YOU'VE SPENT TOO MUCH ACQUIRING HER!
AS YOU KNOW, LITTLE GOSAMYR, I AM A COLLECTOR ...OF BODIES AND OF SOULS.
I DISTILL FROM THEM FEELINGS... AND KEEP THOSE FEELINGS TO DECOCT WHEN THE NEED FOR THEM ARISES.
FEELINGS? HA! ALL YOUR FEELINGS ARE ILLUSION-- ARTIFICIAL FLAVORS STOLEN FROM OTHER PEOPLE!
YOUR ONLY REAL FEELING IS GREED!
AS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE REASON TO KNOW, LITTLE GOSAMYR, ALREADY FOR THEM, IT IS TOO LATE.
NOOO! YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

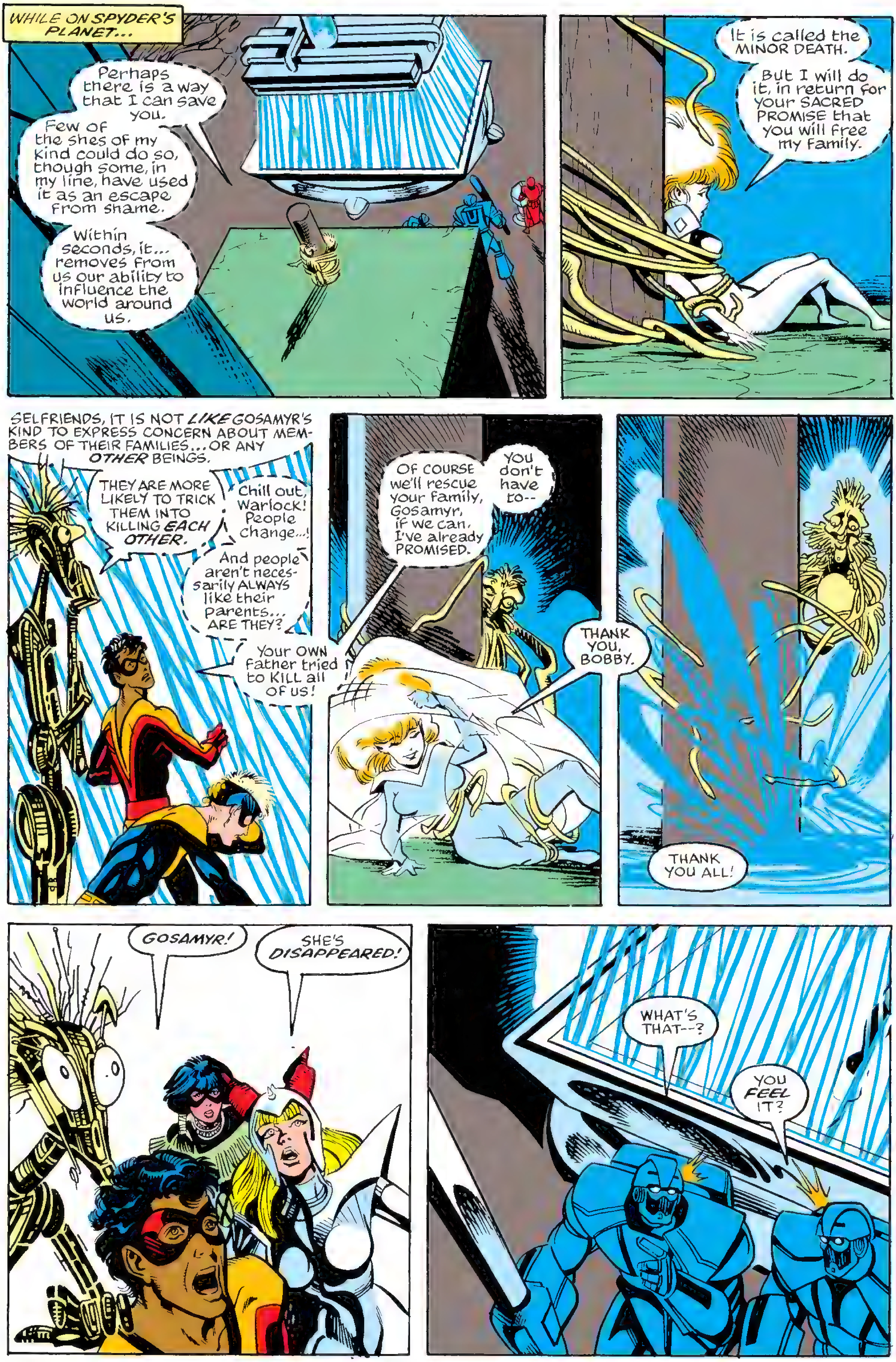

AH, BUT I *DO* KNOW! I KNOW ALL TOO *WELL!*
COME, LILA! WITNESS THEIR *UNVEILING!* AND *KNOW* THE POWER OF THE BEING WHO IS NOW YOUR *MASTER!*
AH'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THIS JUNK!
SAM, *WAIT!*
NO! AH'M INVULNERABLE LONG AS AH KEEP BLASTIN'...
SHRAKT!
YARGH!
THOSE... *CHILDREN* ... WILL MAKE QUITE AN... *UNUSUAL* BREW, LILA, DON'T YOU THINK?
THE NOBLE CANNONBALL! JUST THE GESTURE I WOULD EXPECT FROM HIM!
FORTUNATELY, THE BARS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO ABSORB HIS BLAST'S ENERGY AND TURN IT BACK UPON HIM!
SAM!
SAM!
AH -- RAHNE... *WOLFSBANE!* THE *SHAPE-SHIFTER!*
A *PASSIONATE* CREATURE. THERE IS LITTLE THERE *BUT* RAW FEELING.

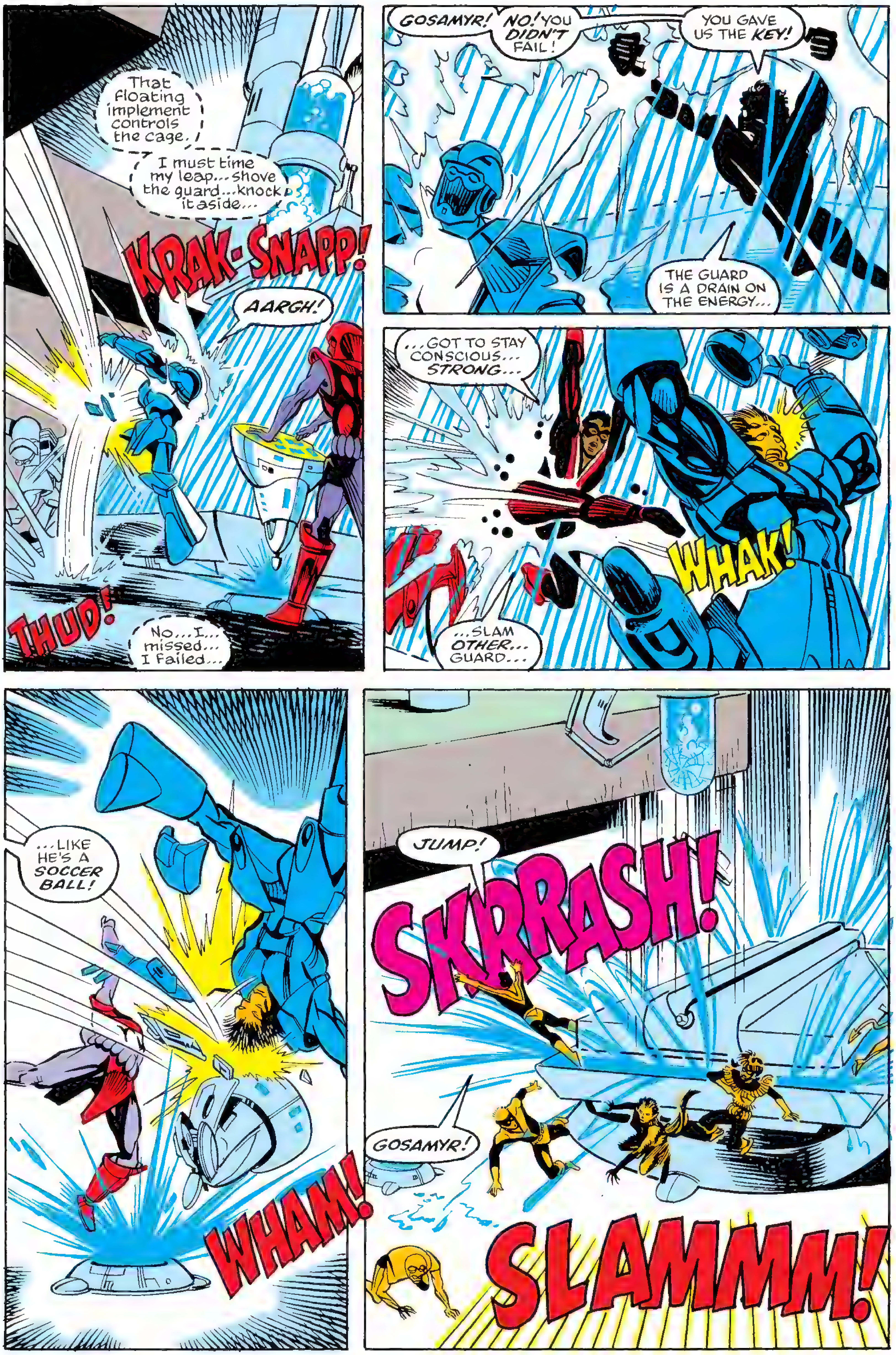

STOP THAT! LEAVE US ALONE--!
YELLLP!
FAR MORE FEELING THAN BRAIN.
AS YOU LEARN, WOLFSBANE, TO YOUR DISMAY, THE AREA BETWEEN THE BARS CONTINUES TO BE ELECTRIFIED!
SPYDER-- LET HER GO!
RAHNE! COME DOWN!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HAVE USED YOUR POWER TO CONJURE YOURSELVES SOME NON-CONDUCTIVE GLOVES!
AH, THE BOSSY MIRAGE!
MONSTER!!
AH, ILLYANA... THE MAGICKAL DARKCHILDE! WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO CALL ME MONSTER--?
YOU, PERHAPS, WILL BE THE MOST USEFUL OF ALL! UNBRIDLED RAGE IS SUCH A RARE COMMODITY.
I CAN FEEL THE POWER OF IT GROWING... DEMANDING RELEASE, PERHAPS I CAN FREE IT.
SELFRIENDBOBBY, YOU WILL BE SHOCKED, TOO.
NO!
SELF CAN WITHSTAND SUCH POWER...
KRACKLE!
...SELF THOUGHT!
BUT SELF HAS SAVED THEM, NONETHELESS!
HA! HA HA! HA HA!
AND NOW I WILL INSPECT MY OTHER MERCHANDISE... LITTLE GOSAMYR'S FAMILY.

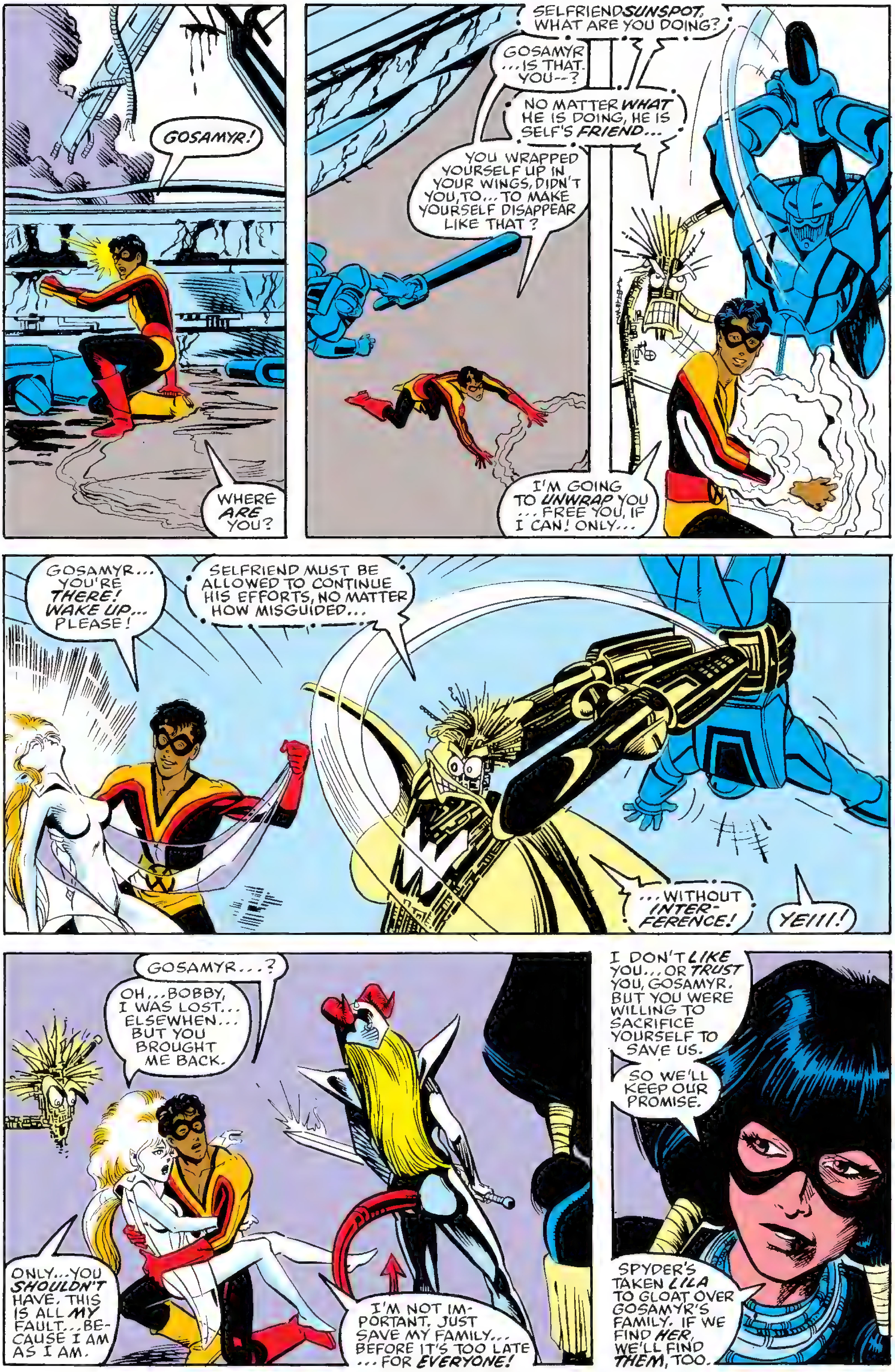

SPYDER, STOP!
YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM! HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE POWER HE'LL UNLEASH!
OH... QUIT WHINING, GOSAMYR. IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, ANYWAY.
I WISH...
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, ILLYANA! YOU CAN'T TELEPORT US OUT OF HERE!
FOR THAT WOULD MEAN TRAVEL THROUGH LIMBO DIMENSION, SELFRIEND, AND THAT MUST BE LAST RESORT!
LILA COULD TELEPORT US HOME... IF WE COULD FREE HER.
THAT'S WHAT WE CAME FOR... AND THAT'S WHAT WE MUST DO... NOT FOR HER SAKE, ALONE, BUT FOR OURS!
I WISH... I HAD NOT LED YOU INTO THIS TRAP!
LITTLE GOSAMYR, YOU ARE THE TRAP... THE POT OF POISONED HONEY... THE RAVENING CARNIVORE DISGUISED AS A FLOWER.
IT IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF YOUR ALIEN RACE THAT THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU WILL TUMBLE TO THEIR DEATHS...
...AS YOU MUTANTS WILL, SOON, TUMBLE TO YOURS!
SPYDER IS RIGHT.
I SUSPECT... KNOW, IN MY HEARTS, WHAT SPYDER PLANS. I HAVE TO STOP HIM. TO SAVE THEIR LIVES. TO SAVE THIS WORLD.
IF ONLY I COULD FREE YOU!

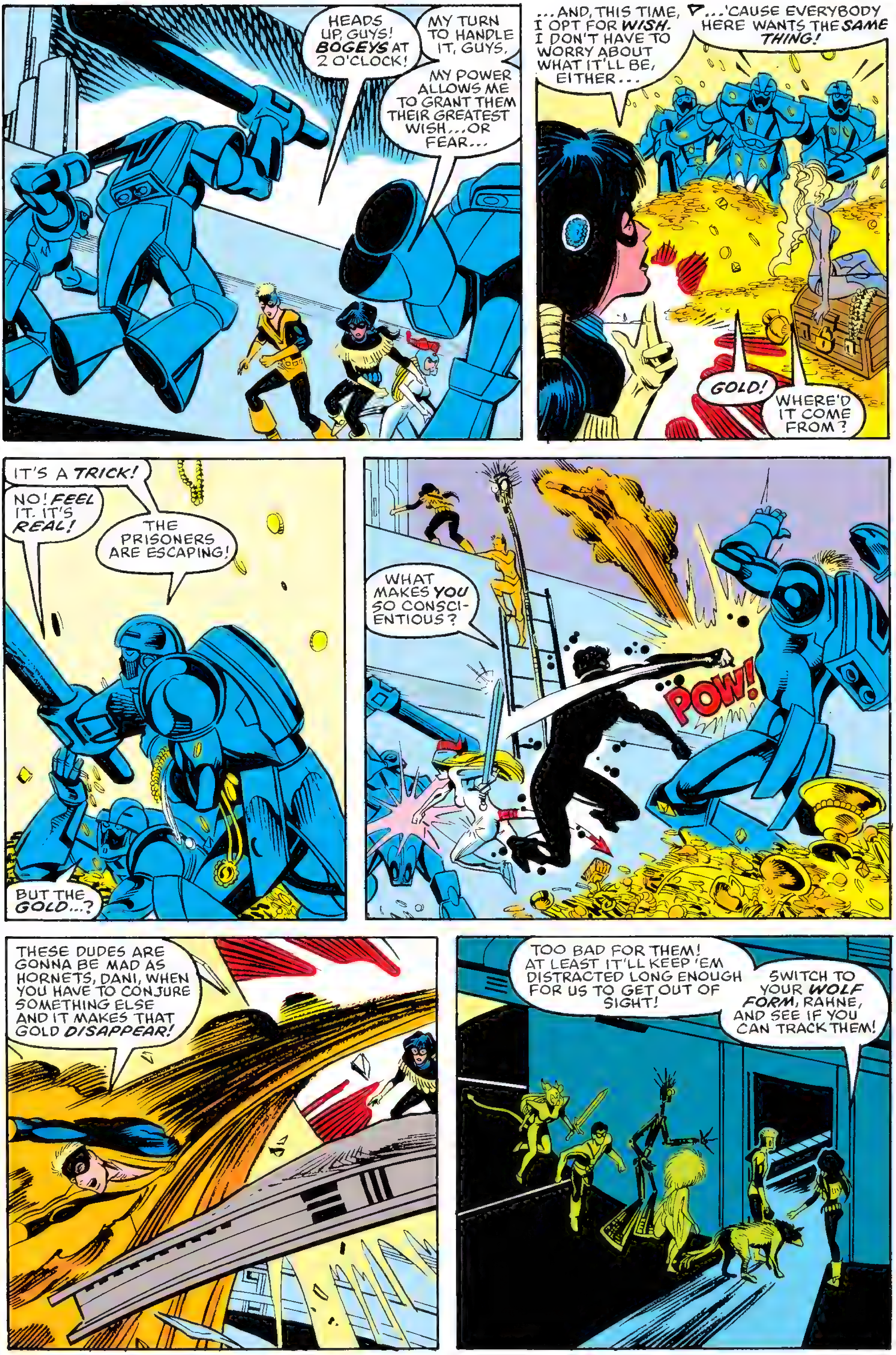

WHILE HUNDREDS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, THE SPIRES OF **MANHATTAN** GLEAM, BLUE AND GOLD, IN THE WANING SUNLIGHT...
SO BEAUTIFUL FROM UP HERE ...AND YET... SOMEHOW THREATENING...!
IS IT MERELY MY MOOD...OR SOMETHING... MORE SINISTER?
SHAW HAS CALLED A MEETING OF THE ***HELLFIRE CLUB*** CONCERNING STRANGE ...SEEMINGLY ***OCCULT***... HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.
SHAW IS MUCH TAKEN WITH MEETINGS...AND HIS OWN IMPORTANCE. IN TIME, ***THAT*** MUST BE DEALT WITH...
STILL, IT GIVES ME AN ***EXCUSE*** TO BE HERE... ONE LESS GALLING THAN MY ***TRUE*** PURPOSE.
I HAVE TRAINED MY STUDENTS IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS, AND NOW THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED... AGAIN...
...ON SOME FOOLISH ***RESCUE MISSION*** AGAINST ALIEN INVADERS... OR SO I HAVE BEEN TOLD.
THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION, ***GALLS*** ME!
AS ***WHITE KING*** OF THE ***HELLFIRE CLUB***, I HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO OUR EQUIPMENT AS OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR ***INNER CIRCLE***...
...BUT TO USE THAT EQUIPMENT TO SCAN FOR THEM YET ***AGAIN***... AND TO HAVE THE OTHERS ***KNOW*** WHAT I'M DOING...
...IS HUMILIATION BEYOND ENDURANCE.
MIKE + JOE
L.C. STINKS
JuJo 88
EVIL
VOODOO MANIA
BILL ♡ JACK
CREAK!
THE ***FIRE ESCAPE!*** IT'S ***UNRAVELING!*** ***IT'S***--
--***ATTACKING ME!***
BACK! BACK, MONSTER! YIELD, I SAY!
YOU FACE ***MAGNETO, MASTER OF MAGNETISM!***

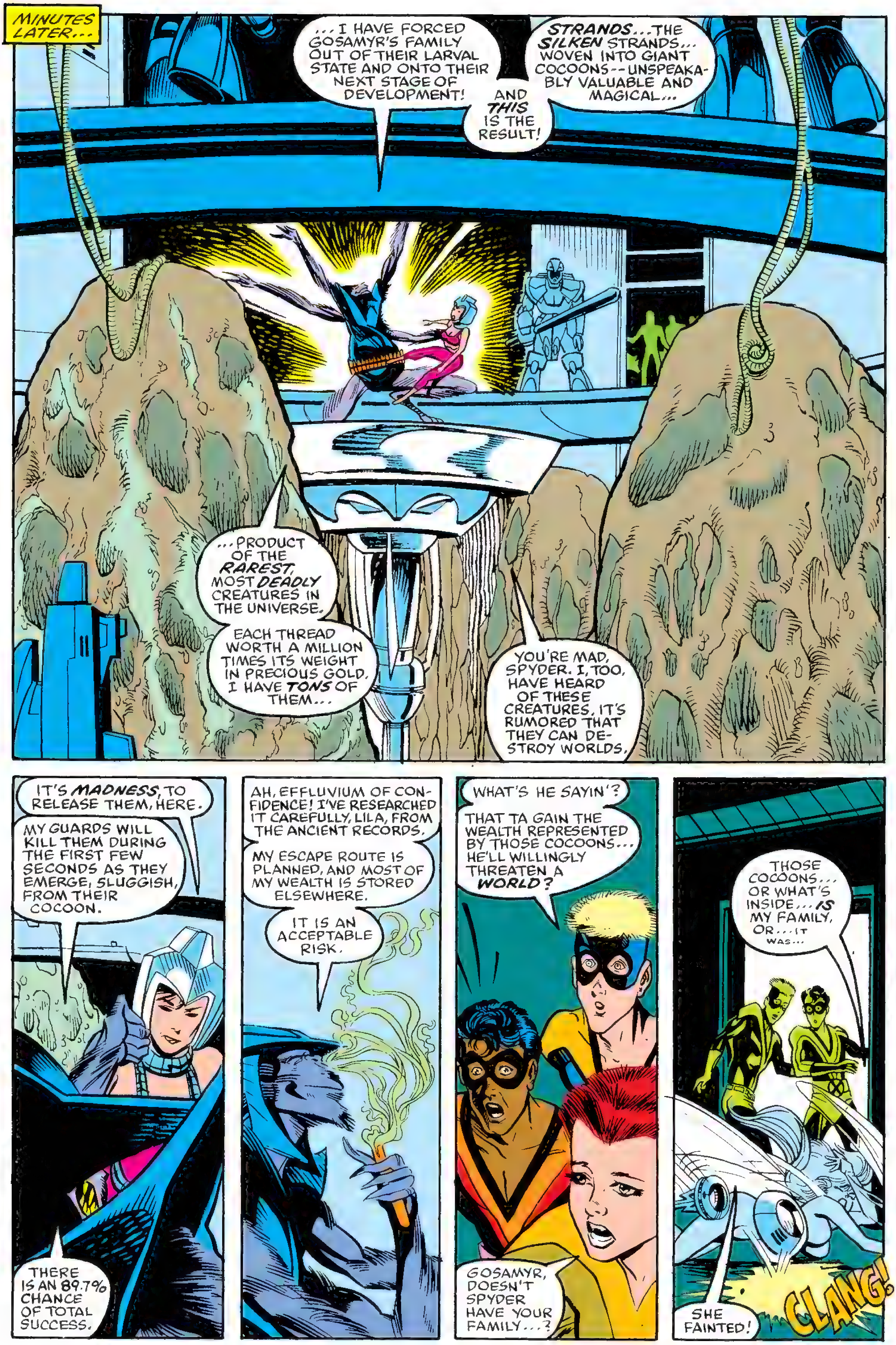

NOTHING MADE OF IRON CAN STAND AGAINST ME!
NO VILLAIN WOULD DARE TO TEST MY HUMOR AS THESE CHILDREN HAVE.
SOON, THE NEW MUTANTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DISOBEY.
AND I SHALL NEED TO REASSESS MY ATTITUDE TOWARD SHAW'S MEETING...
YOU WERE RIGHT, SHAW. SOMETHING STRANGE, INDEED, IS HAPPENING IN THE CITY. I WAS ATTACKED...
AND SURVIVED, I SEE. GOOD! I FEARED YOU WERE GOING SOFT.
REALLY, SHAW? WHAT LED YOU TO THAT CONCLUSION?
IN YOUR YOUTH, MAGNUS, YOU RULED THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS WITH AN IRON HAND. NO PUN INTENDED, MY FRIEND.
AND NOW, IN YOUR DOTAGE, YOU CANNOT CONTROL SIX UNRULY TEENAGERS.
OR SO OUR WHITE QUEEN TELLS ME...!
WELCOME, MAGNUS.
YOU MISQUOTE ME, SHAW... AND MISREPRESENT MY ATTITUDE.
MAGNUS'S STUDENTS ARE SPIRITED AND ADVENTUROUS. OF COURSE, FROM TIME TO TIME, THEY'LL TEST THE RULES.
WE WILL FIND YOUR STUDENTS, MAGNUS, IF THEY REMAIN ON EARTH.
AND I SUSPECT THAT, IN FUTURE, YOU WILL ENFORCE DISCIPLINE MORE STRINGENTLY...
...AND WITH THE STRENGTH OF HAND I'VE ALWAYS SO MUCH ADMIRED.
YOU PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME, MISS FROST... TAKING THE WHITE KING'S SIDE AGAINST THE BLACK!
IF YOUR GOAL IS TO PROVOKE SHAW, I CAN SEE THAT YOU'VE SUCCEEDED.
AND IF YOU SEEK TO SPLIT THE HELLFIRE CLUB, WHITE PIECES AGAINST THE BLACK... YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR BACK.

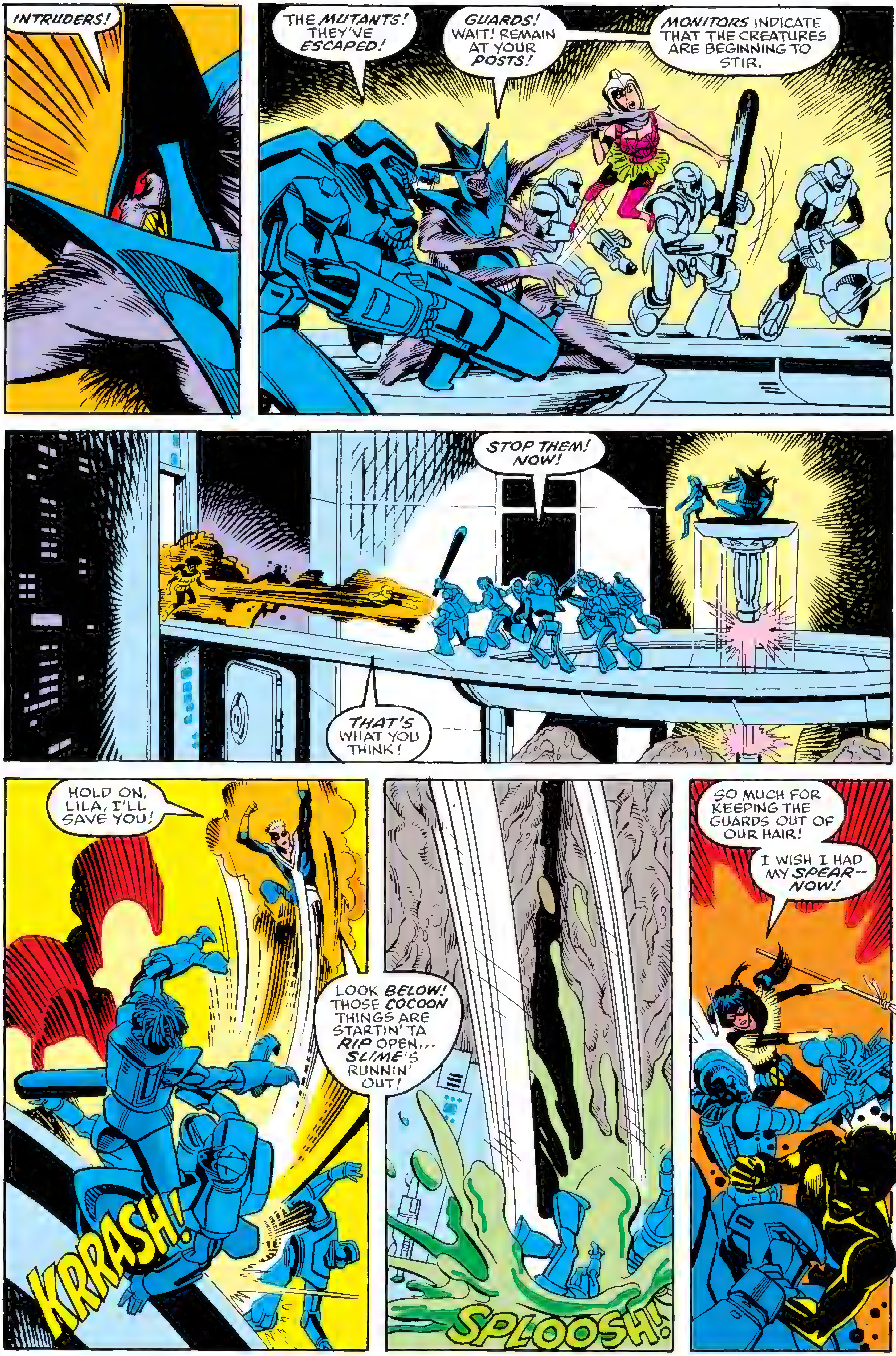

WHILE ON SPYDER'S PLANET...
Perhaps there is a way that I can save you.
Few of the shes of my kind could do so, though some, in my line, have used it as an escape from shame.
Within seconds, it... removes from us our ability to influence the world around us.
It is called the MINOR DEATH.
But I will do it, in return for your SACRED PROMISE that you will free my family.
SELFRIENDS, IT IS NOT *LIKE* GOSAMYR'S KIND TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES... OR ANY *OTHER* BEINGS.
THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRICK THEM INTO KILLING *EACH OTHER*.
Chill out, Warlock! People change...!
And people aren't necessarily ALWAYS like their parents... ARE THEY?
Your OWN Father tried to KILL all of us!
OF COURSE we'll rescue your family, Gosamyr, if we can. I've already PROMISED.
You don't have to--
THANK YOU, BOBBY.
THANK YOU ALL!
GOSAMYR!
SHE'S *DISAPPEARED!*
WHAT'S THAT--?
YOU *FEEL* IT?

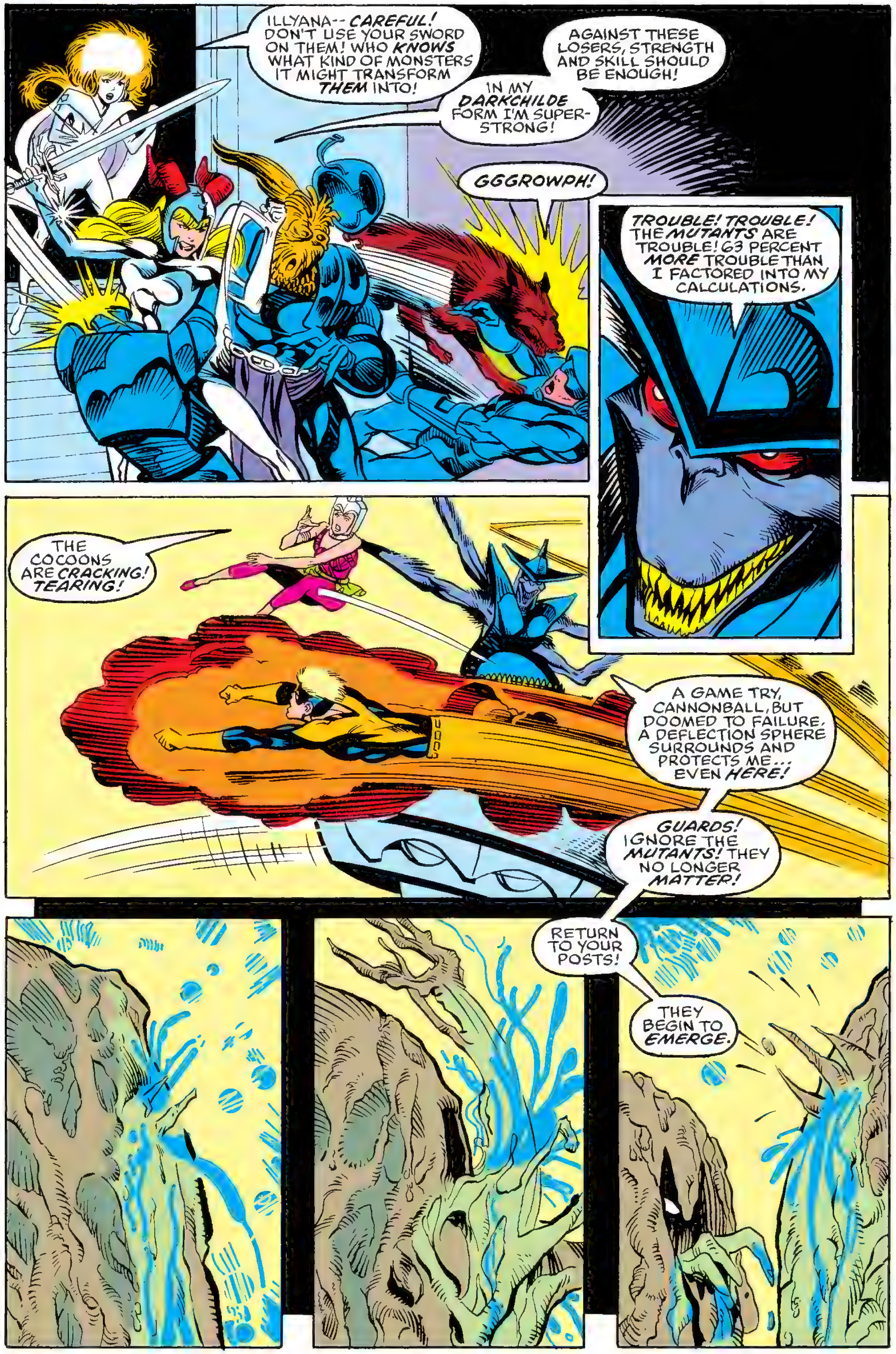

That floating implement controls the cage.
I must time my leap...shove the guard...knock it aside...
KRAK-SNAPP!
AARGH!
THUD!
No...I... missed... I failed...
GOSAMYR!
NO! YOU DIDN'T FAIL!
YOU GAVE US THE KEY!
THE GUARD IS A DRAIN ON THE ENERGY...
...GOT TO STAY CONSCIOUS... STRONG...
WHAK!
...SLAM OTHER... GUARD...
...LIKE HE'S A SOCCER BALL!
WHAM!
JUMP!
SKRRASH!
GOSAMYR!
SLAMMM!

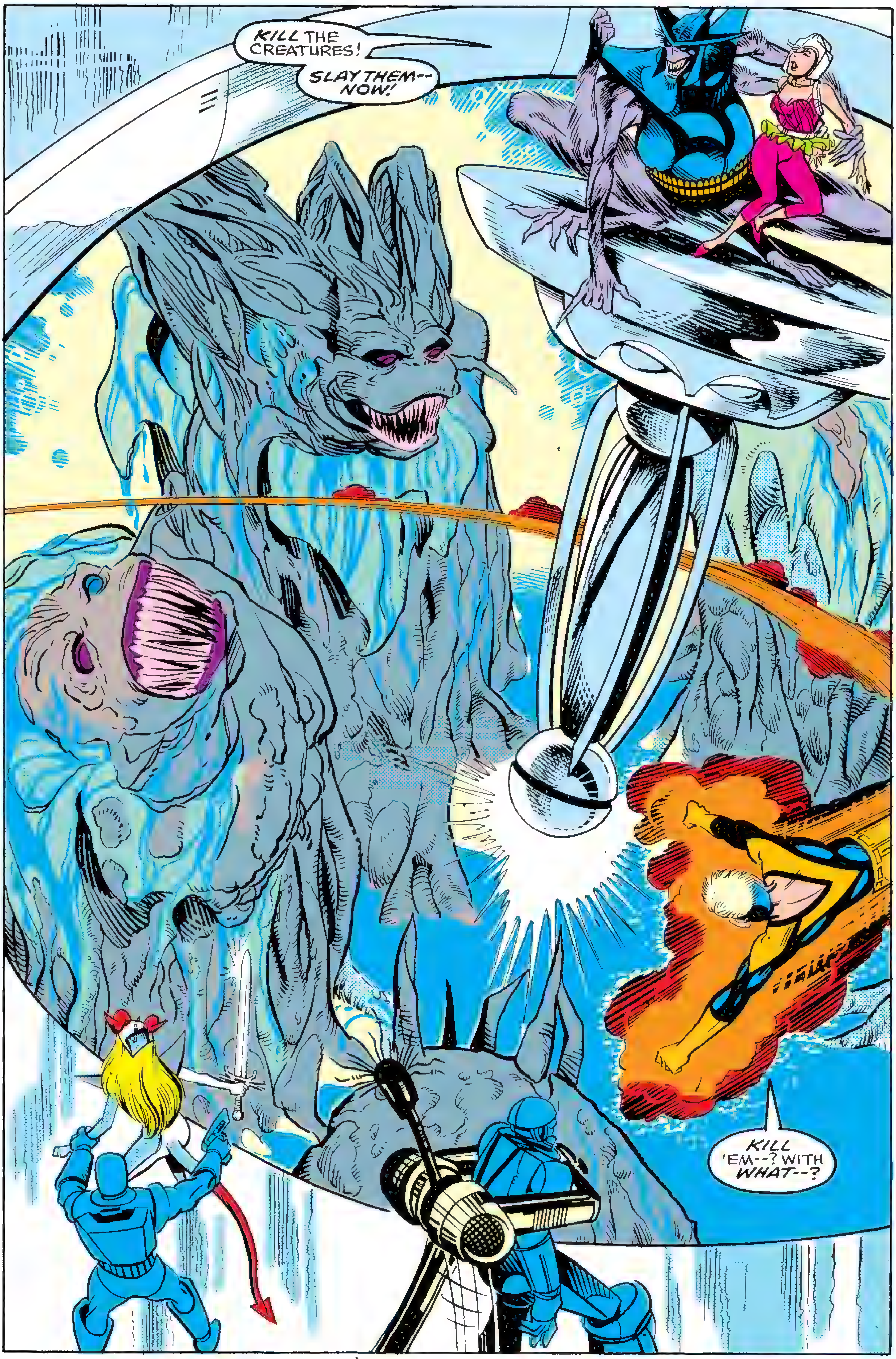

GOSAMYR!
WHERE ARE YOU?
SELFRIEND SUNSPOT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GOSAMYR ...IS THAT YOU--?
NO MATTER WHAT HE IS DOING, HE IS SELF'S FRIEND...
YOU WRAPPED YOURSELF UP IN YOUR WINGS, DIDN'T YOU, TO... TO MAKE YOURSELF DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT?
I'M GOING TO UNWRAP YOU ...FREE YOU, IF I CAN! ONLY...
GOSAMYR... YOU'RE THERE! WAKE UP... PLEASE!
SELFRIEND MUST BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS, NO MATTER HOW MISGUIDED...
...WITHOUT INTERFERENCE!
YEIII!
GOSAMYR...?
OH... BOBBY, I WAS LOST... ELSEWHEN... BUT YOU BROUGHT ME BACK.
ONLY... YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT... BECAUSE I AM AS I AM.
I'M NOT IMPORTANT. JUST SAVE MY FAMILY... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE ...FOR EVERYONE!
I DON'T LIKE YOU... OR TRUST YOU, GOSAMYR. BUT YOU WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO SAVE US.
SO WE'LL KEEP OUR PROMISE.
SPYDER'S TAKEN LILA TO GLOAT OVER GOSAMYR'S FAMILY. IF WE FIND HER, WE'LL FIND THEM, TOO.

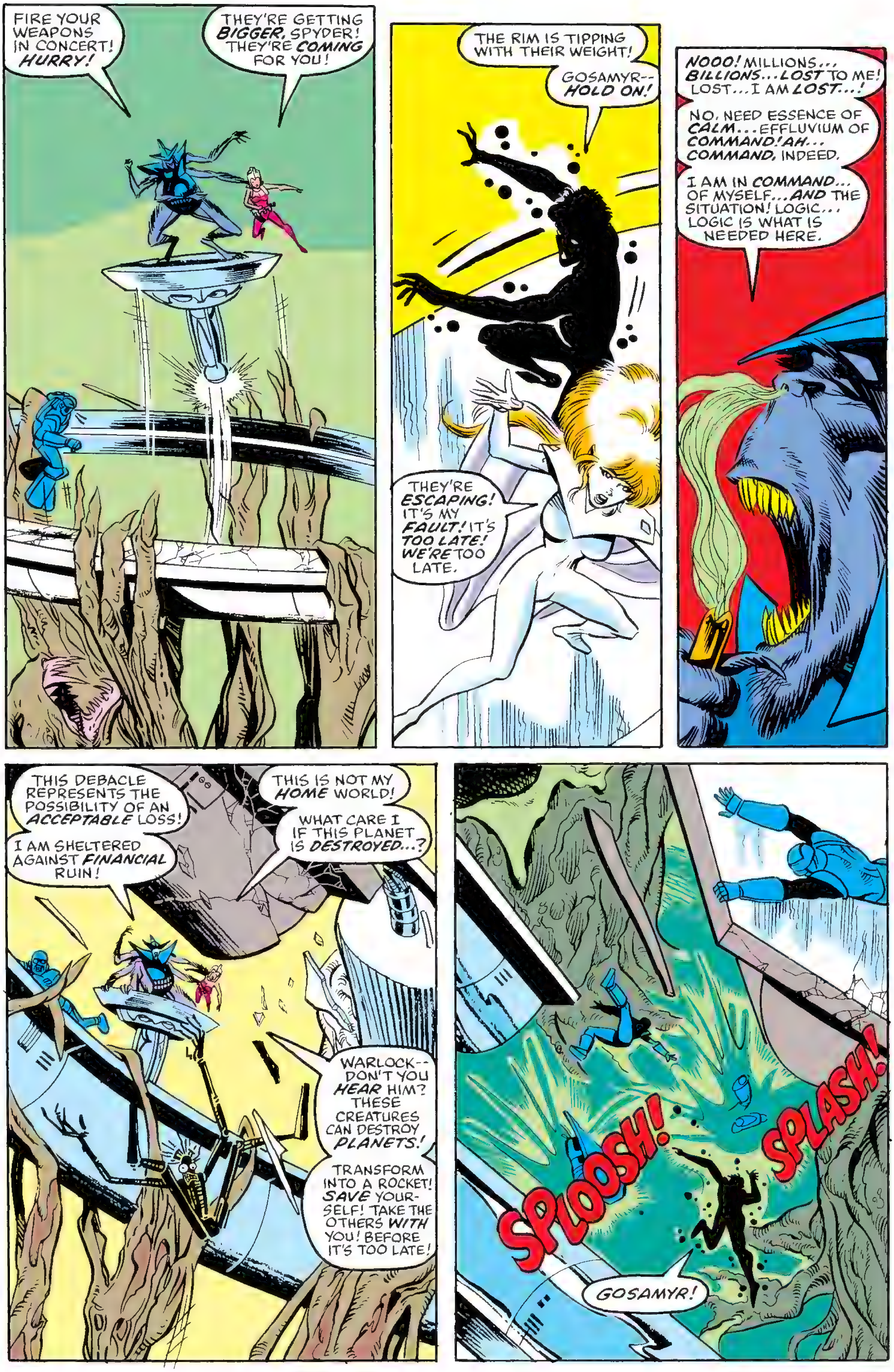

HEADS UP, GUYS! **BOGEYS** AT 2 O'CLOCK!
MY TURN TO HANDLE IT, GUYS.
MY POWER ALLOWS ME TO GRANT THEM THEIR GREATEST WISH...OR FEAR...
...AND, THIS TIME, I OPT FOR ***WISH.*** I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT IT'LL BE, EITHER...
...'CAUSE EVERYBODY HERE WANTS THE ***SAME THING!***
GOLD!
WHERE'D IT COME FROM?
IT'S A ***TRICK!***
NO! ***FEEL*** IT. IT'S ***REAL!***
THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING!
BUT THE ***GOLD...?***
WHAT MAKES ***YOU*** SO CONSCIENTIOUS?
POW!
THESE DUDES ARE GONNA BE MAD AS HORNETS, DANI, WHEN YOU HAVE TO CONJURE SOMETHING ELSE AND IT MAKES THAT GOLD ***DISAPPEAR!***
TOO BAD FOR THEM! AT LEAST IT'LL KEEP 'EM DISTRACTED LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GET OUT OF SIGHT!
SWITCH TO YOUR ***WOLF FORM,*** RAHNE, AND SEE IF YOU CAN TRACK THEM!

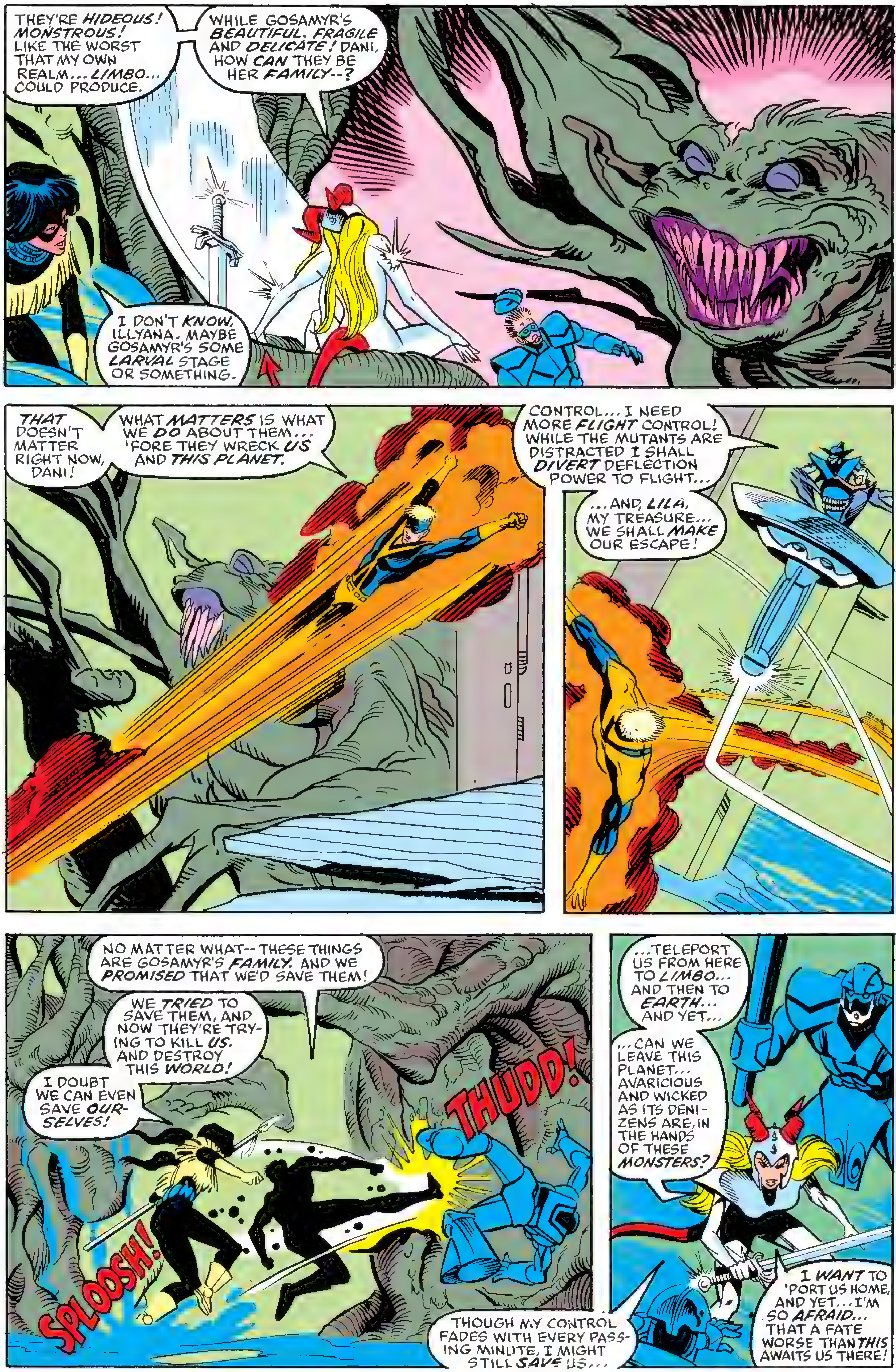

MINUTES LATER...
...I HAVE FORCED GOSAMYR'S FAMILY OUT OF THEIR LARVAL STATE AND ONTO THEIR NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT!
AND *THIS* IS THE RESULT!
STRANDS...THE *SILKEN* STRANDS... WOVEN INTO GIANT COCOONS--UNSPEAKABLY VALUABLE AND MAGICAL...
...PRODUCT OF THE *RAREST*, MOST *DEADLY* CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE.
EACH THREAD WORTH A MILLION TIMES ITS WEIGHT IN PRECIOUS GOLD. I HAVE *TONS* OF THEM...
YOU'RE MAD, SPYDER. I, TOO, HAVE HEARD OF THESE CREATURES. IT'S RUMORED THAT THEY CAN DESTROY WORLDS.
IT'S *MADNESS*, TO RELEASE THEM, HERE.
MY GUARDS WILL KILL THEM DURING THE FIRST FEW SECONDS AS THEY EMERGE, SLUGGISH, FROM THEIR COCOON.
THERE IS AN 89.7% CHANCE OF TOTAL SUCCESS.
AH, EFFLUVIUM OF CONFIDENCE! I'VE RESEARCHED IT CAREFULLY, LILA, FROM THE ANCIENT RECORDS.
MY ESCAPE ROUTE IS PLANNED, AND MOST OF MY WEALTH IS STORED ELSEWHERE.
IT IS AN ACCEPTABLE RISK.
WHAT'S HE SAYIN'?
THAT TA GAIN THE WEALTH REPRESENTED BY THOSE COCOONS... HE'LL WILLINGLY THREATEN A *WORLD*?
GOSAMYR, DOESN'T SPYDER HAVE YOUR FAMILY...?
THOSE COCOONS... OR WHAT'S INSIDE... *IS* MY FAMILY, OR... IT WAS...
SHE FAINTED!
CLANG!

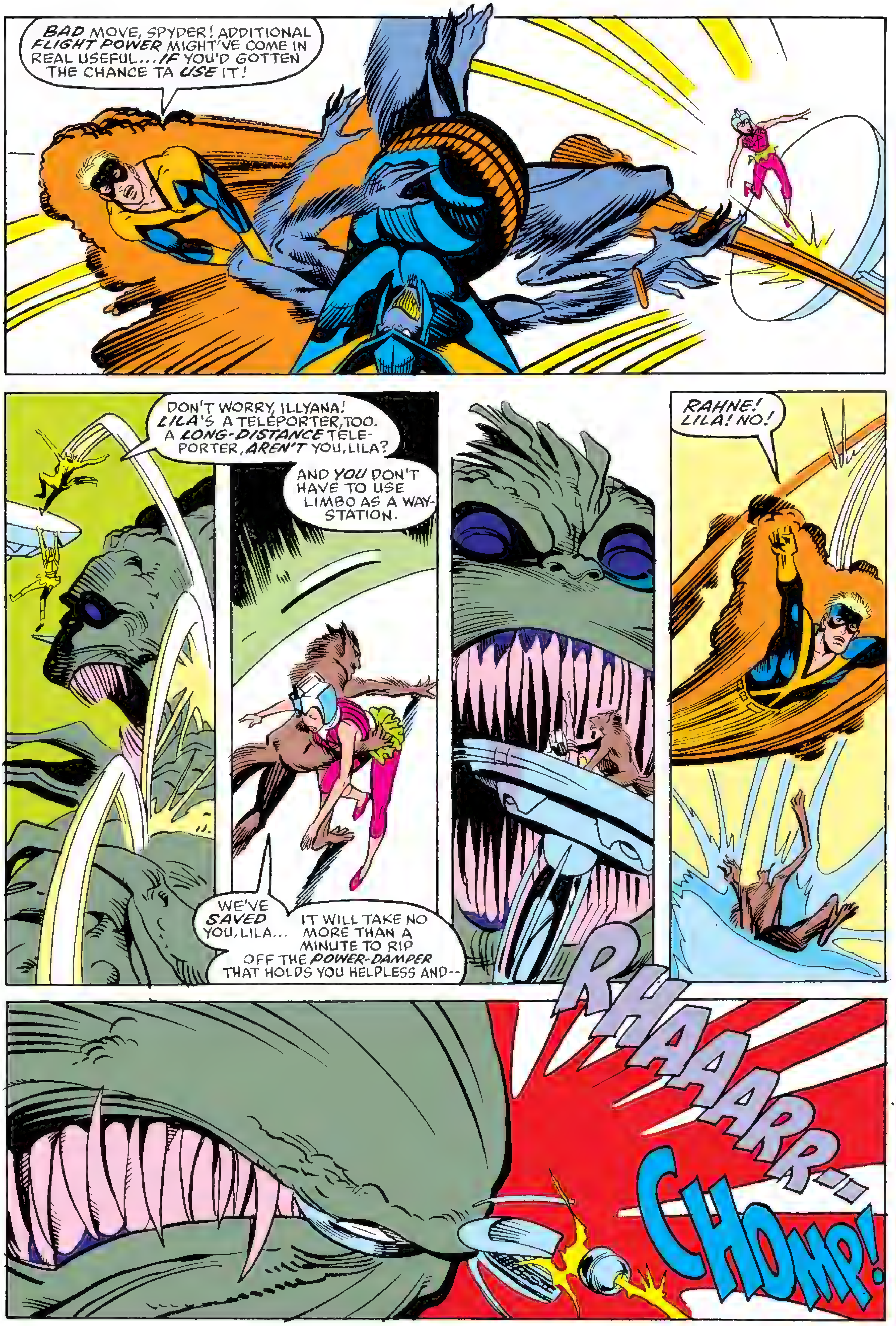

INTRUDERS!
THE *MUTANTS!* THEY'VE *ESCAPED!*
GUARDS! WAIT! REMAIN AT YOUR *POSTS!*
MONITORS INDICATE THAT THE CREATURES ARE BEGINNING TO STIR.
STOP THEM! NOW!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
HOLD ON, LILA, I'LL SAVE YOU!
KRRASH!
LOOK *BELOW!* THOSE *COCOON* THINGS ARE STARTIN' TA *RIP* OPEN... *SLIME*'S RUNNIN' OUT!
SPLOOSH!
SO MUCH FOR KEEPING THE GUARDS OUT OF OUR HAIR!
I WISH I HAD MY *SPEAR*-- *NOW!*

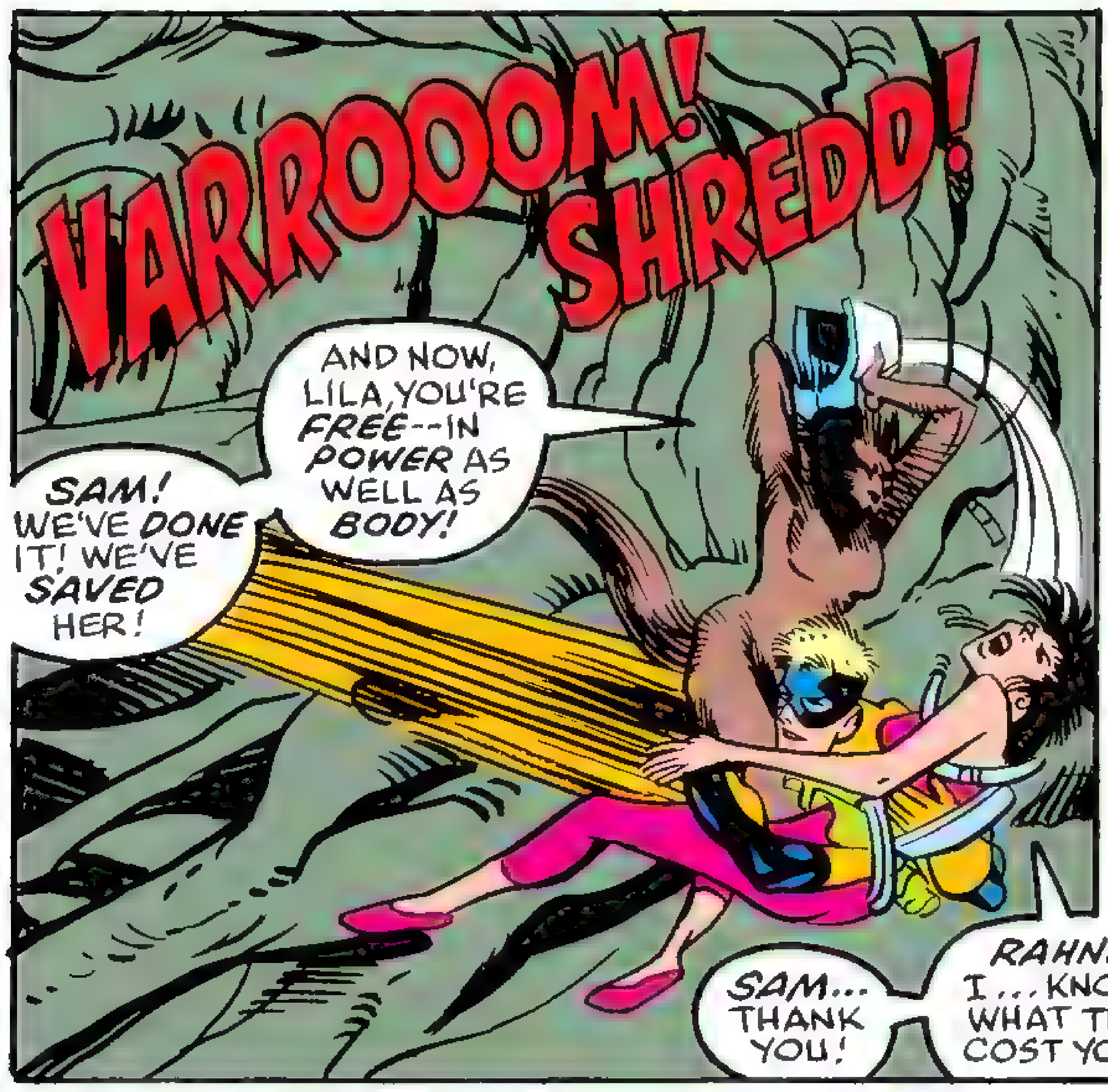

ILLYANA-- *CAREFUL!* DON'T USE YOUR SWORD ON THEM! WHO *KNOWS* WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS IT MIGHT TRANSFORM *THEM* INTO!
AGAINST THESE LOSERS, STRENGTH AND SKILL SHOULD BE ENOUGH!
IN MY *DARKCHILDE* FORM I'M SUPER-STRONG!
GGGROWPH!
TROUBLE! TROUBLE! THE *MUTANTS* ARE TROUBLE! 63 PERCENT *MORE* TROUBLE THAN I FACTORED INTO MY CALCULATIONS.
THE COCOONS ARE *CRACKING! TEARING!*
A GAME TRY, CANNONBALL, BUT DOOMED TO FAILURE. A DEFLECTION SPHERE SURROUNDS AND PROTECTS ME... EVEN *HERE!*
GUARDS! IGNORE THE *MUTANTS!* THEY NO LONGER *MATTER!*
RETURN TO YOUR POSTS!
THEY BEGIN TO *EMERGE.*

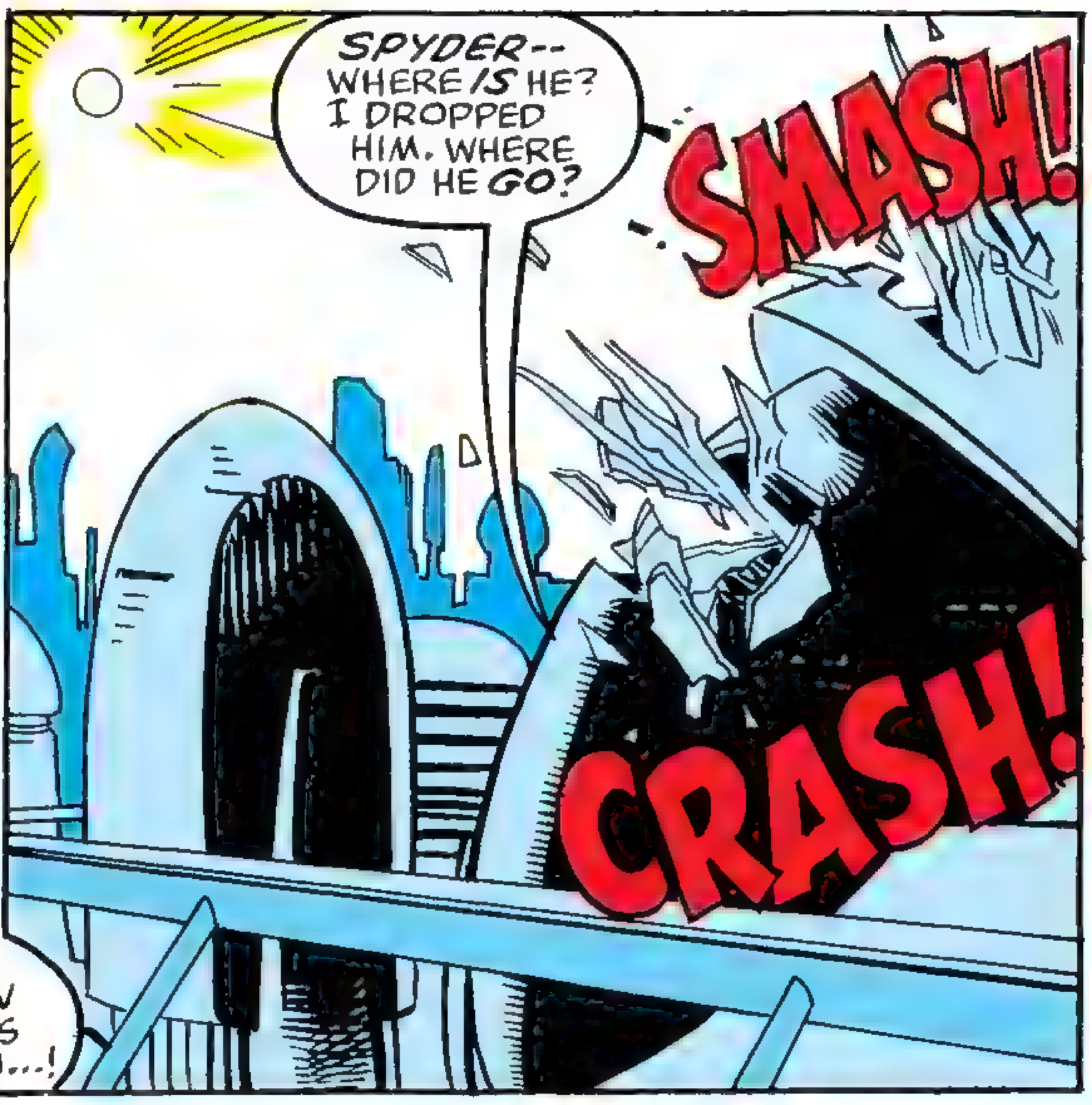

KILL THE CREATURES!
SLAY THEM-- NOW!
KILL 'EM--? WITH WHAT--?

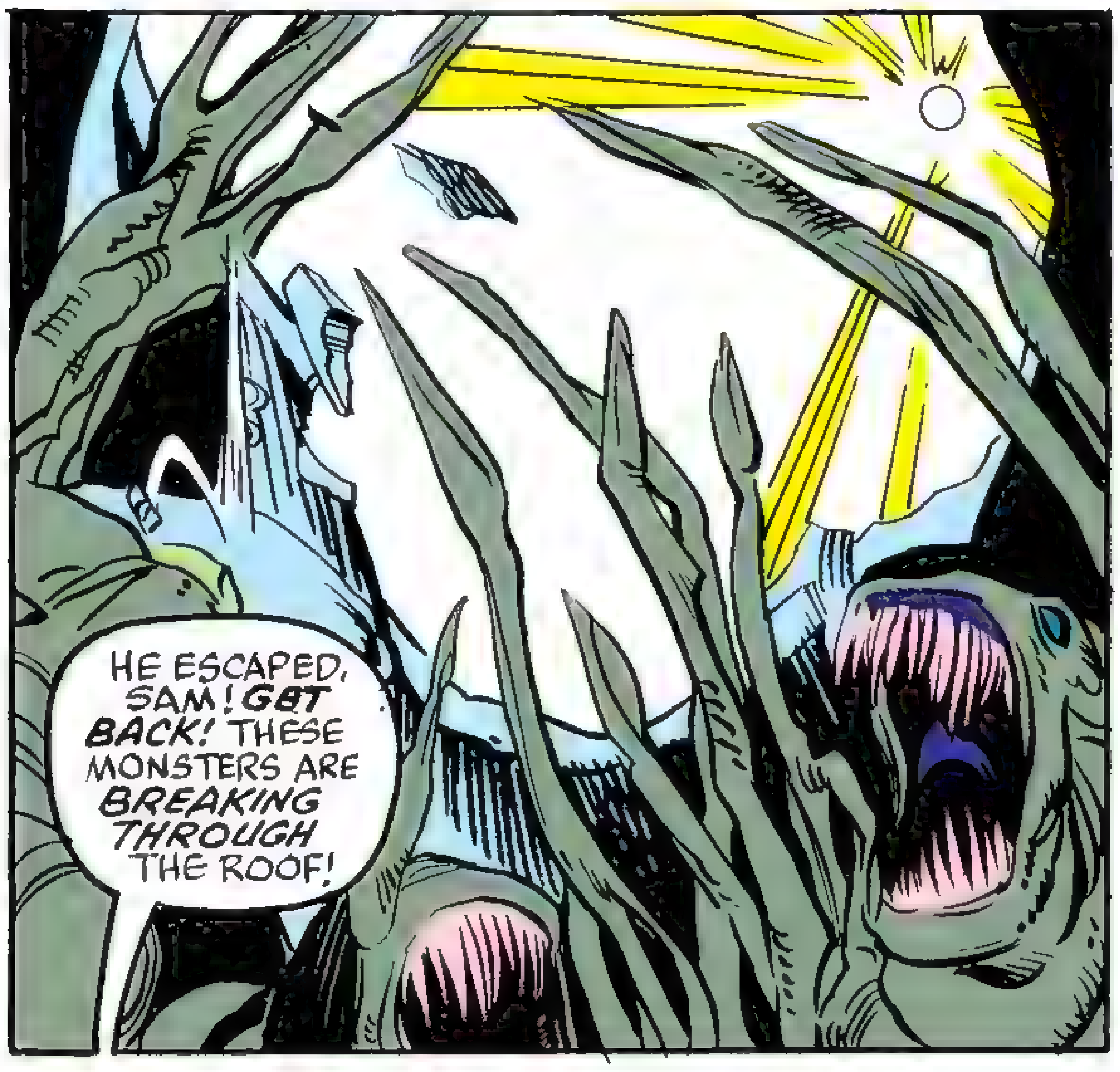

FIRE YOUR WEAPONS IN CONCERT! HURRY!
THEY'RE GETTING BIGGER, SPYDER! THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU!
THE RIM IS TIPPING WITH THEIR WEIGHT!
GOSAMYR-- HOLD ON!
THEY'RE ESCAPING! IT'S MY FAULT! IT'S TOO LATE! WE'RE TOO LATE.
NOOO! MILLIONS... BILLIONS... LOST TO ME! LOST... I AM LOST...!
NO. NEED ESSENCE OF CALM... EFFLUVIUM OF COMMAND! AH... COMMAND, INDEED.
I AM IN COMMAND... OF MYSELF... AND THE SITUATION! LOGIC... LOGIC IS WHAT IS NEEDED HERE.
THIS DEBACLE REPRESENTS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCEPTABLE LOSS!
I AM SHELTERED AGAINST FINANCIAL RUIN!
THIS IS NOT MY HOME WORLD!
WHAT CARE I IF THIS PLANET IS DESTROYED...?
WARLOCK-- DON'T YOU HEAR HIM? THESE CREATURES CAN DESTROY PLANETS!
TRANSFORM INTO A ROCKET! SAVE YOURSELF! TAKE THE OTHERS WITH YOU! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
SPLOOSH!
SPLASH!
GOSAMYR!

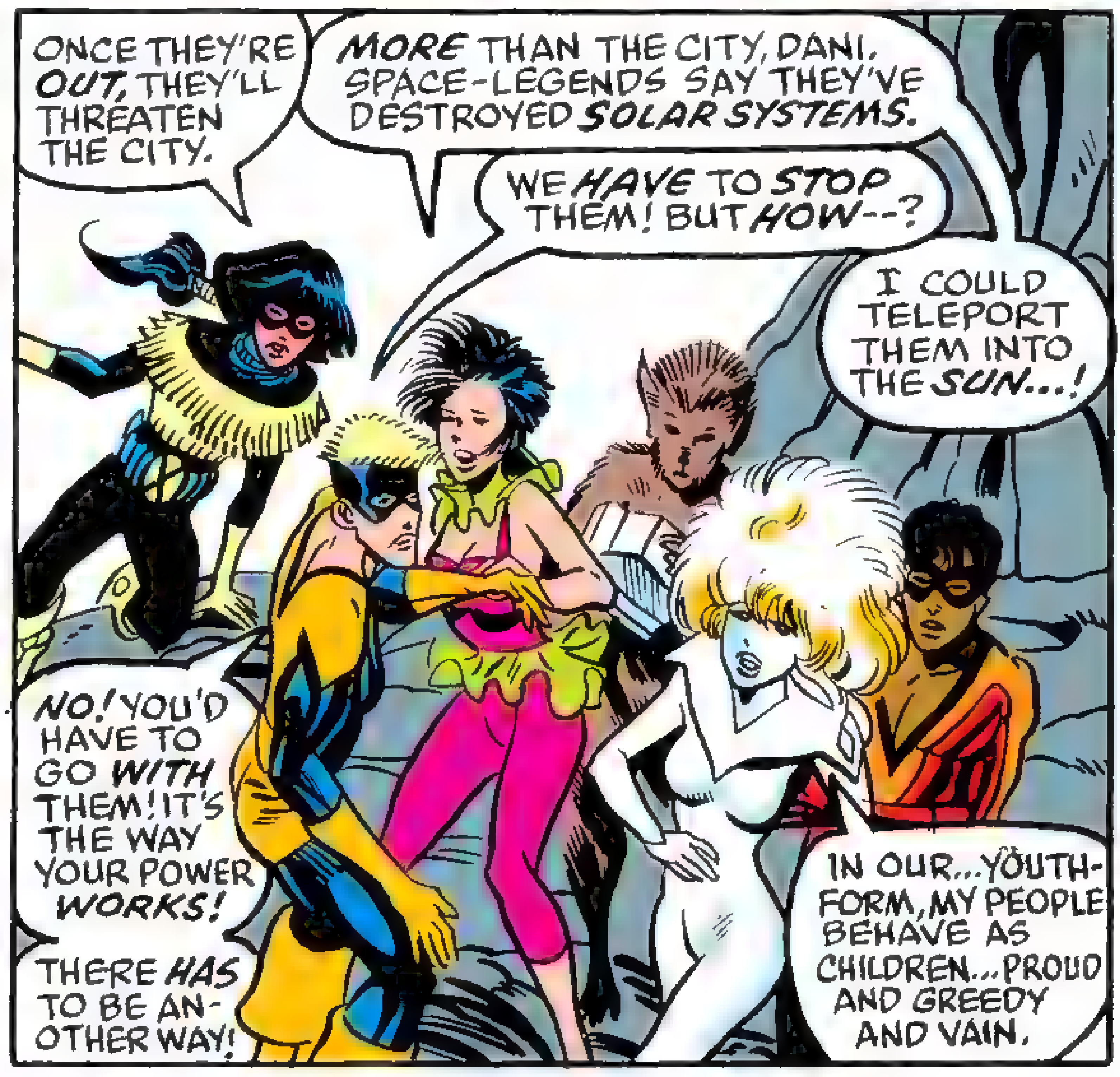

THEY'RE *HIDEOUS!* *MONSTROUS!* LIKE THE WORST THAT MY OWN REALM... *LIMBO*... COULD PRODUCE.
WHILE GOSAMYR'S *BEAUTIFUL, FRAGILE* AND *DELICATE!* DANI, HOW *CAN* THEY BE HER *FAMILY--?*
I DON'T *KNOW*, ILLYANA. MAYBE GOSAMYR'S SOME *LARVAL* STAGE OR SOMETHING.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER RIGHT NOW, DANI!
WHAT *MATTERS* IS WHAT WE *DO* ABOUT THEM... 'FORE THEY WRECK *US* AND *THIS PLANET.*
CONTROL... I NEED MORE *FLIGHT* CONTROL! WHILE THE MUTANTS ARE DISTRACTED I SHALL *DIVERT* DEFLECTION POWER TO FLIGHT...
...AND, *LILA*, MY TREASURE... WE SHALL *MAKE* OUR ESCAPE!
NO MATTER WHAT-- THESE THINGS ARE GOSAMYR'S *FAMILY*. AND WE *PROMISED* THAT WE'D SAVE THEM!
WE *TRIED* TO SAVE THEM, AND NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL *US*. AND DESTROY THIS *WORLD!*
I DOUBT WE CAN EVEN SAVE *OURSELVES!*
THUDD!
SPLOOSH!
...TELEPORT US FROM HERE TO *LIMBO*... AND THEN TO *EARTH*... AND YET...
...CAN WE LEAVE THIS PLANET... AVARICIOUS AND WICKED AS ITS DENIZENS ARE, IN THE HANDS OF THESE *MONSTERS?*
THOUGH MY CONTROL FADES WITH EVERY PASSING MINUTE, I MIGHT STILL *SAVE* US...
I *WANT* TO 'PORT US HOME, AND YET... I'M SO *AFRAID*... THAT A FATE WORSE THAN *THIS* AWAITS US THERE!

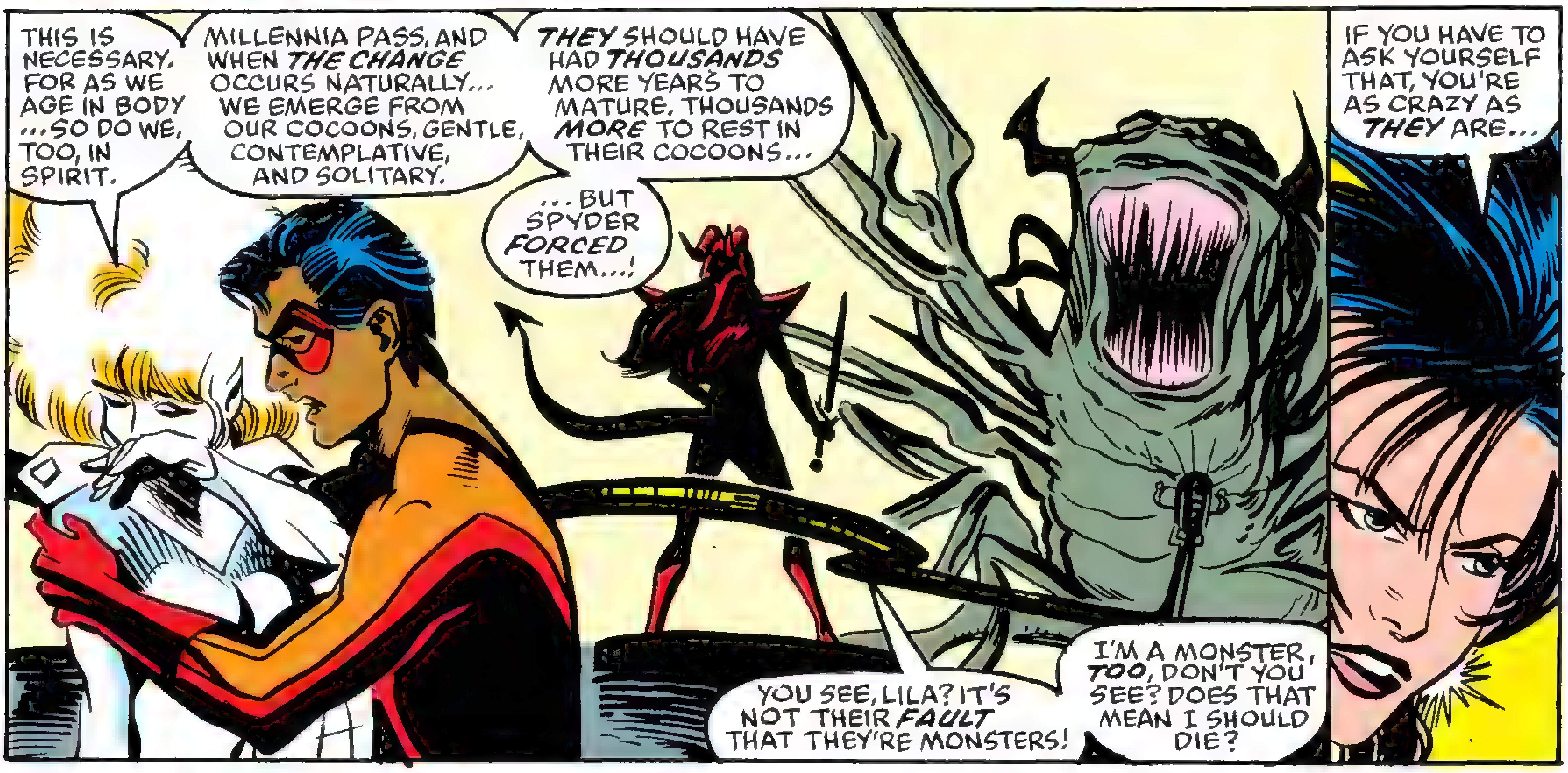

BAD MOVE, SPYDER! ADDITIONAL FLIGHT POWER MIGHT'VE COME IN REAL USEFUL...IF YOU'D GOTTEN THE CHANCE TA USE IT!
DON'T WORRY, ILLYANA! LILA'S A TELEPORTER, TOO. A LONG-DISTANCE TELEPORTER, AREN'T YOU, LILA?
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE LIMBO AS A WAY-STATION.
WE'VE SAVED YOU, LILA...
IT WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN A MINUTE TO RIP OFF THE POWER-DAMPER THAT HOLDS YOU HELPLESS AND--
RAHNE! LILA! NO!
RHAAAARR--
CHOMP!

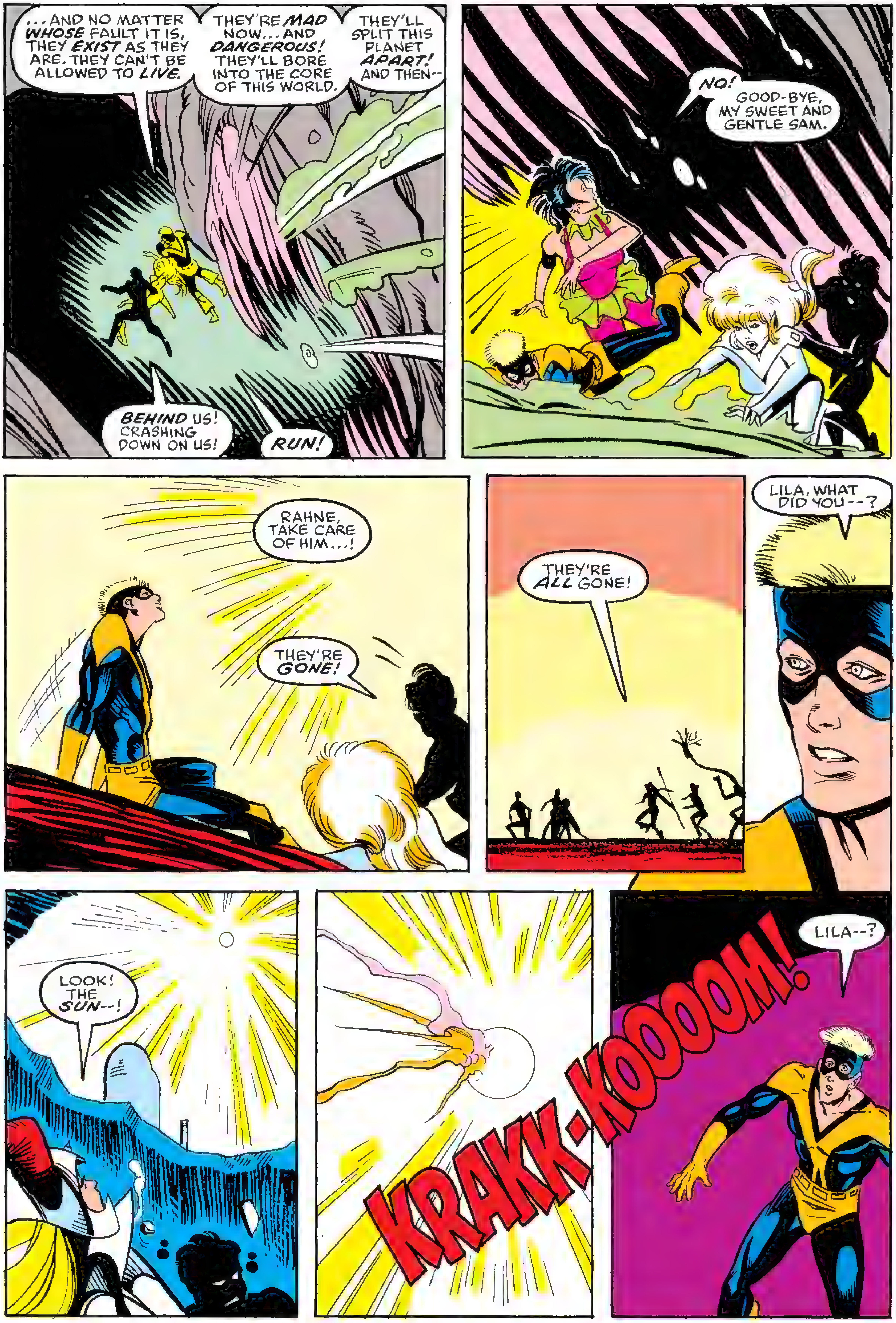

VARROOOM! SHREDD!
SAM! WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE SAVED HER!
AND NOW, LILA, YOU'RE FREE--IN POWER AS WELL AS BODY!
SAM... THANK YOU!
RAHNE, I... KNOW WHAT THIS COST YOU...!

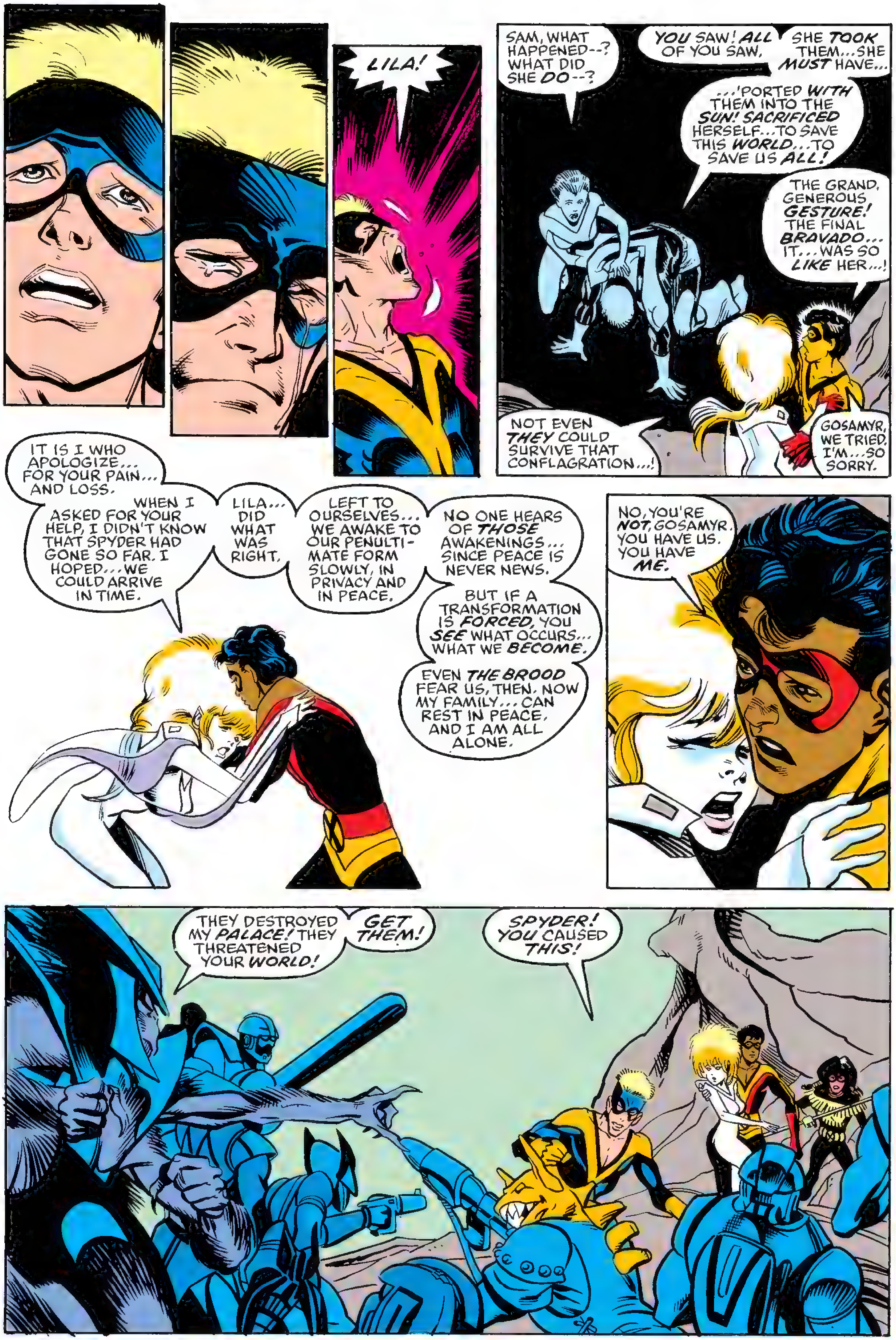

SPYDER-- WHERE IS HE? I DROPPED HIM. WHERE DID HE GO?
SMASH!
CRASH!

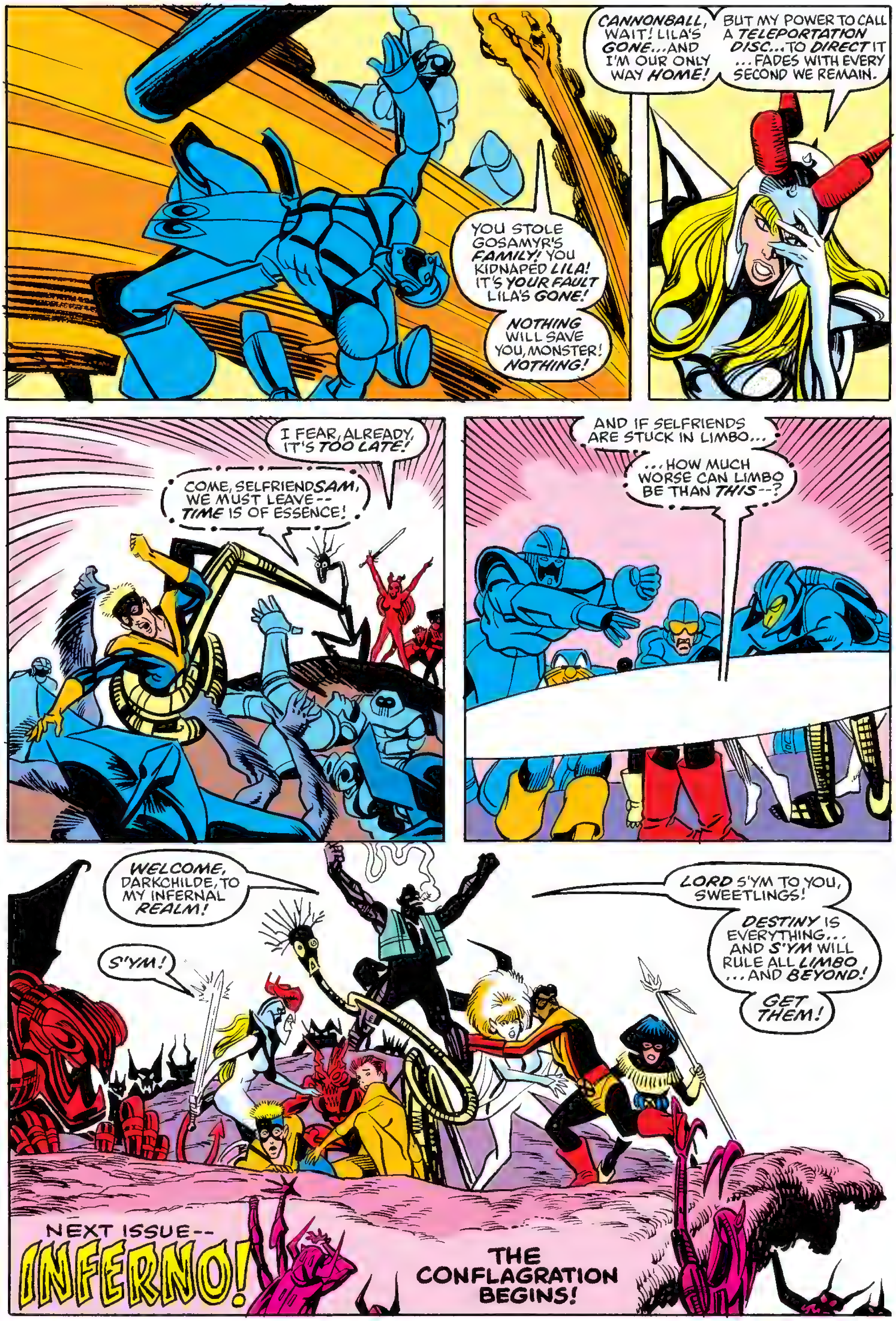

HE ESCAPED, SAM! GET BACK! THESE MONSTERS ARE BREAKING THROUGH THE ROOF!


ONCE THEY'RE OUT, THEY'LL THREATEN THE CITY.
MORE THAN THE CITY, DANI. SPACE-LEGENDS SAY THEY'VE DESTROYED SOLAR SYSTEMS.
WE HAVE TO STOP THEM! BUT HOW--?
I COULD TELEPORT THEM INTO THE SUN...!
NO! YOU'D HAVE TO GO WITH THEM! IT'S THE WAY YOUR POWER WORKS!
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY!
IN OUR... YOUTH-FORM, MY PEOPLE BEHAVE AS CHILDREN... PROUD AND GREEDY AND VAIN.


THIS IS NECESSARY. FOR AS WE AGE IN BODY ...SO DO WE, TOO, IN SPIRIT.
MILLENNIA PASS, AND WHEN THE CHANGE OCCURS NATURALLY... WE EMERGE FROM OUR COCOONS, GENTLE, CONTEMPLATIVE, AND SOLITARY.
THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD THOUSANDS MORE YEARS TO MATURE. THOUSANDS MORE TO REST IN THEIR COCOONS...
...BUT SPYDER FORCED THEM...!
YOU SEE, LILA? IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT THAT THEY'RE MONSTERS!
I'M A MONSTER, TOO, DON'T YOU SEE? DOES THAT MEAN I SHOULD DIE?
IF YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF THAT, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS THEY ARE...


...AND NO MATTER *WHOSE* FAULT IT IS, THEY *EXIST* AS THEY ARE. THEY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO *LIVE*.
THEY'RE *MAD* NOW... AND *DANGEROUS!* THEY'LL BORE INTO THE CORE OF THIS WORLD.
THEY'LL SPLIT THIS PLANET *APART!* AND THEN--
BEHIND US! CRASHING DOWN ON US!
RUN!
NO! GOOD-BYE, MY SWEET AND GENTLE SAM.
RAHNE, TAKE CARE OF HIM...!
THEY'RE *GONE!*
THEY'RE *ALL* GONE!
LILA, WHAT DID YOU--?
LOOK! THE *SUN*--!
KRAKK-KOOOOOM!
LILA--?


LILA!
SAM, WHAT HAPPENED--? WHAT DID SHE *DO*--?
YOU SAW! *ALL* OF YOU SAW.
SHE *TOOK* THEM...SHE *MUST* HAVE...
...'PORTED *WITH* THEM INTO THE *SUN! SACRIFICED* HERSELF...TO SAVE THIS *WORLD*...TO SAVE US *ALL!*
THE GRAND, GENEROUS *GESTURE!* THE FINAL *BRAVADO*... IT...WAS SO *LIKE* HER...!
NOT EVEN *THEY* COULD SURVIVE THAT CONFLAGRATION...!
GOSAMYR, WE TRIED. I'M...SO SORRY.
IT IS I WHO APOLOGIZE... FOR YOUR PAIN... AND LOSS.
WHEN I ASKED FOR YOUR HELP, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT SPYDER HAD GONE SO FAR. I HOPED...WE COULD ARRIVE IN TIME.
LILA... DID WHAT WAS RIGHT.
LEFT TO OURSELVES... WE AWAKE TO OUR PENULTIMATE FORM SLOWLY, IN PRIVACY AND IN PEACE.
NO ONE HEARS OF *THOSE* AWAKENINGS... SINCE PEACE IS NEVER NEWS.
BUT IF A TRANSFORMATION IS *FORCED*, YOU *SEE* WHAT OCCURS... WHAT WE *BECOME*.
EVEN *THE BROOD* FEAR US, THEN. NOW MY FAMILY... CAN REST IN PEACE. AND I AM ALL ALONE.
NO, YOU'RE *NOT*, GOSAMYR. YOU HAVE US. YOU HAVE *ME*.
THEY DESTROYED MY *PALACE!* THEY THREATENED YOUR *WORLD!*
GET THEM!
SPYDER! YOU CAUSED *THIS!*


YOU STOLE GOSAMYR'S FAMILY! YOU KIDNAPED LILA! IT'S YOUR FAULT LILA'S GONE!
NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU, MONSTER! NOTHING!
CANNONBALL, WAIT! LILA'S GONE...AND I'M OUR ONLY WAY HOME!
BUT MY POWER TO CALL A TELEPORTATION DISC...TO DIRECT IT ...FADES WITH EVERY SECOND WE REMAIN.
I FEAR, ALREADY, IT'S TOO LATE!
COME, SELFRIENDSAM, WE MUST LEAVE-- TIME IS OF ESSENCE!
AND IF SELFRIENDS ARE STUCK IN LIMBO...
...HOW MUCH WORSE CAN LIMBO BE THAN THIS--?
WELCOME, DARKCHILDE, TO MY INFERNAL REALM!
S'YM!
LORD S'YM TO YOU, SWEETLINGS!
DESTINY IS EVERYTHING... AND S'YM WILL RULE ALL LIMBO ...AND BEYOND!
GET THEM!
NEXT ISSUE--
INFERNO!
THE CONFLAGRATION BEGINS!

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THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS™
FULL DETAILS INSIDE ON THE STORY THAT WILL ROCK THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

COVER ART BY BRET BLEVINS

X-TRA

THE MUTANT REPORT

X-TRA

VOLUME 2 **"THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION"** **NUMBER 11**

THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS

Fall; autumn; the twilight season. This is the time of year when life fades and the smell of death hangs in the air, a chilling hint of the winter soon to come. "The Fall of the Mutants," both the season and the special crossover stories starting this month, is a powerful, tragic time in the lives of everyone's favorite X-People that will change the direction of their careers for all time.

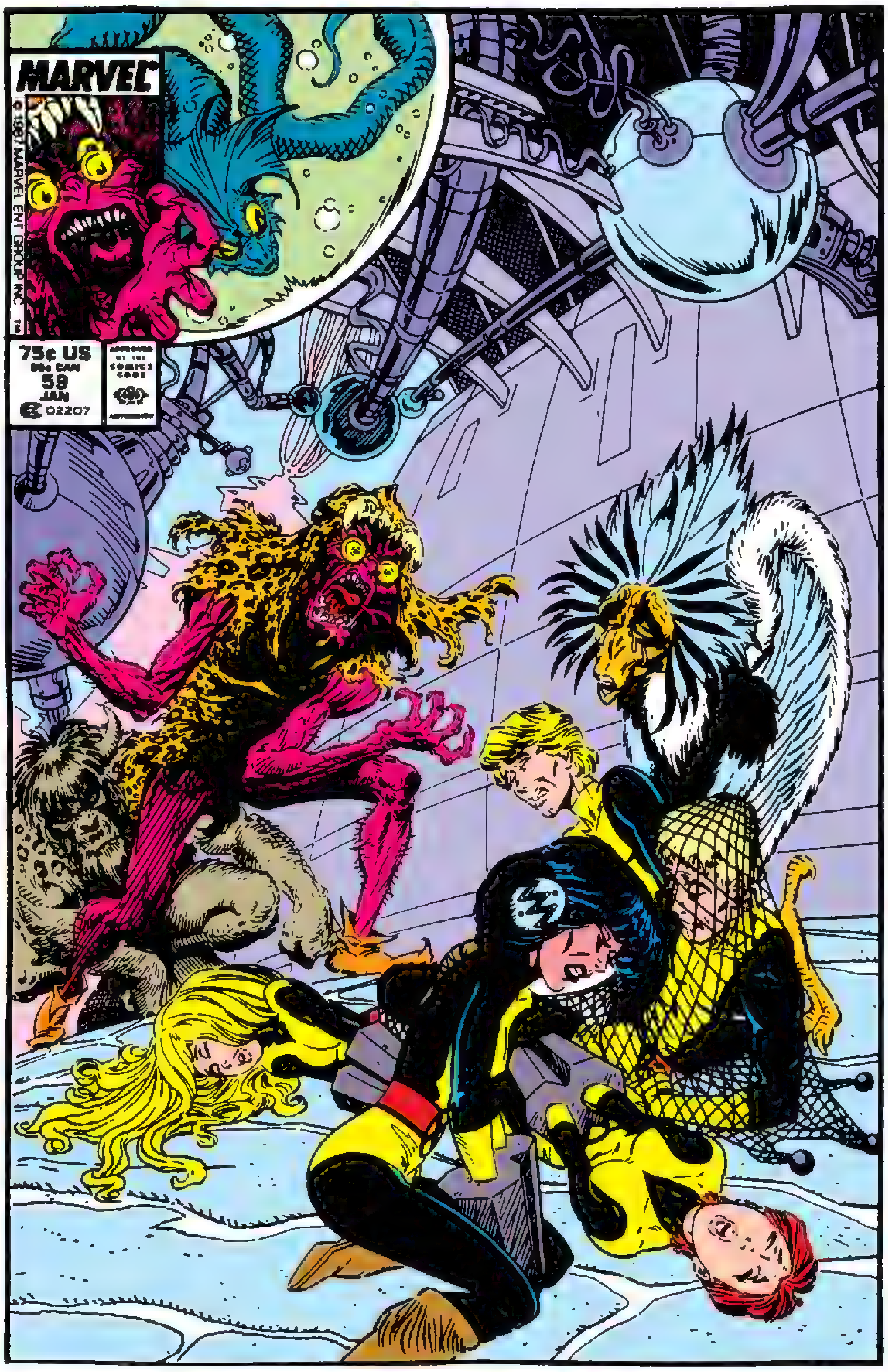
"This set of stories, collectively called 'The Fall of the Mutants,' is bigger than the massacre stories of a year ago, more far reaching," explained X-MEN's assistant editor Terry Kavanagh. "The end result of 'The Fall' is to level out mutant hysteria, but it won't solve the situation."

All three mutant books will carry the story of "The Fall." X-MEN #s 225, 226 and 227, NEW MUTANTS #s 59, 60 and 61, and X-FACTOR #s 24, 25 and 26 each tell separate tales that have interrelated repercussions. Additional insights and residual effects can be seen over the next few months in DAREDEVIL, CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE HULK, and POWER PACK titles.

Writers Chris (X-MEN) Claremont and Louise (NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR) Simonson have coordinated events to revolve around three pivotal issues. "These pivotal events will result in radical changes in the premise of each group," explained Louise. "These are not crossover stories in the traditional sense. 'The Fall' is made up of separate happenings all of which have ramifications in the various mutant books."

In X-MEN, the pivotal event begins when the United States Congress passes the Mutant Registration Act. This act calls for all people displaying mutant abilities to register with the government. How the X-Men react to this law, as well as the untimely interference of the villain known as the Adversary, result in terrible loss and massive destruction. "As bad as things have been in the past is nothing compared to what's going to happen in 'The Fall' and beyond," said Chris. "I don't want to give anything away, but expect the unexpected."

X-FACTOR has its hands full when Apocalypse decides to make his move. He's not happy with the direction in which the team is going so he makes them an offer they can't refuse. "Apocalypse offers X-Factor the world. Their response makes up the three-issue saga that ends with a new headquarters for the team, new costumes, and a new modus operandi," explained Louise. Also on hand will be The Right, a mysterious group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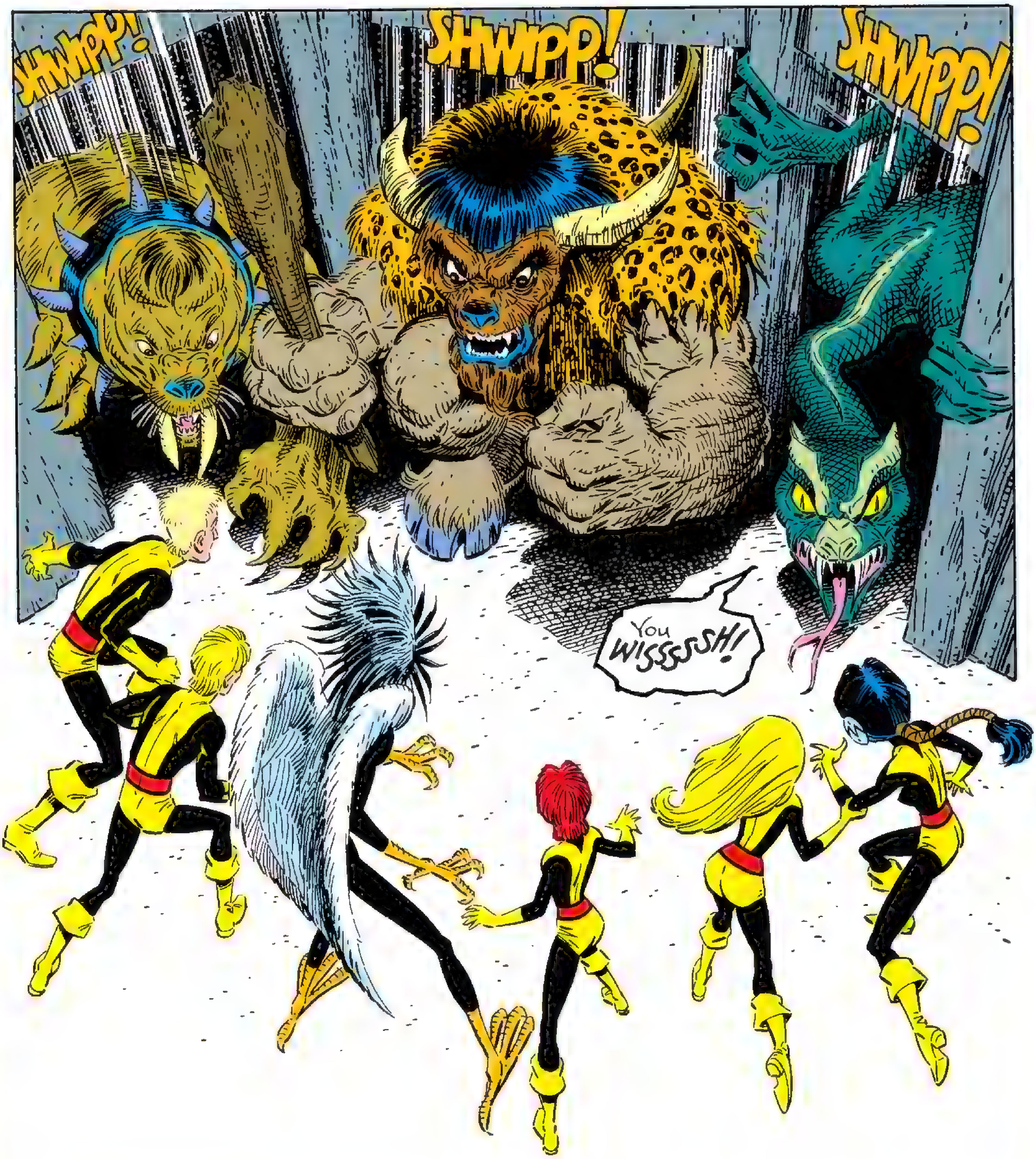
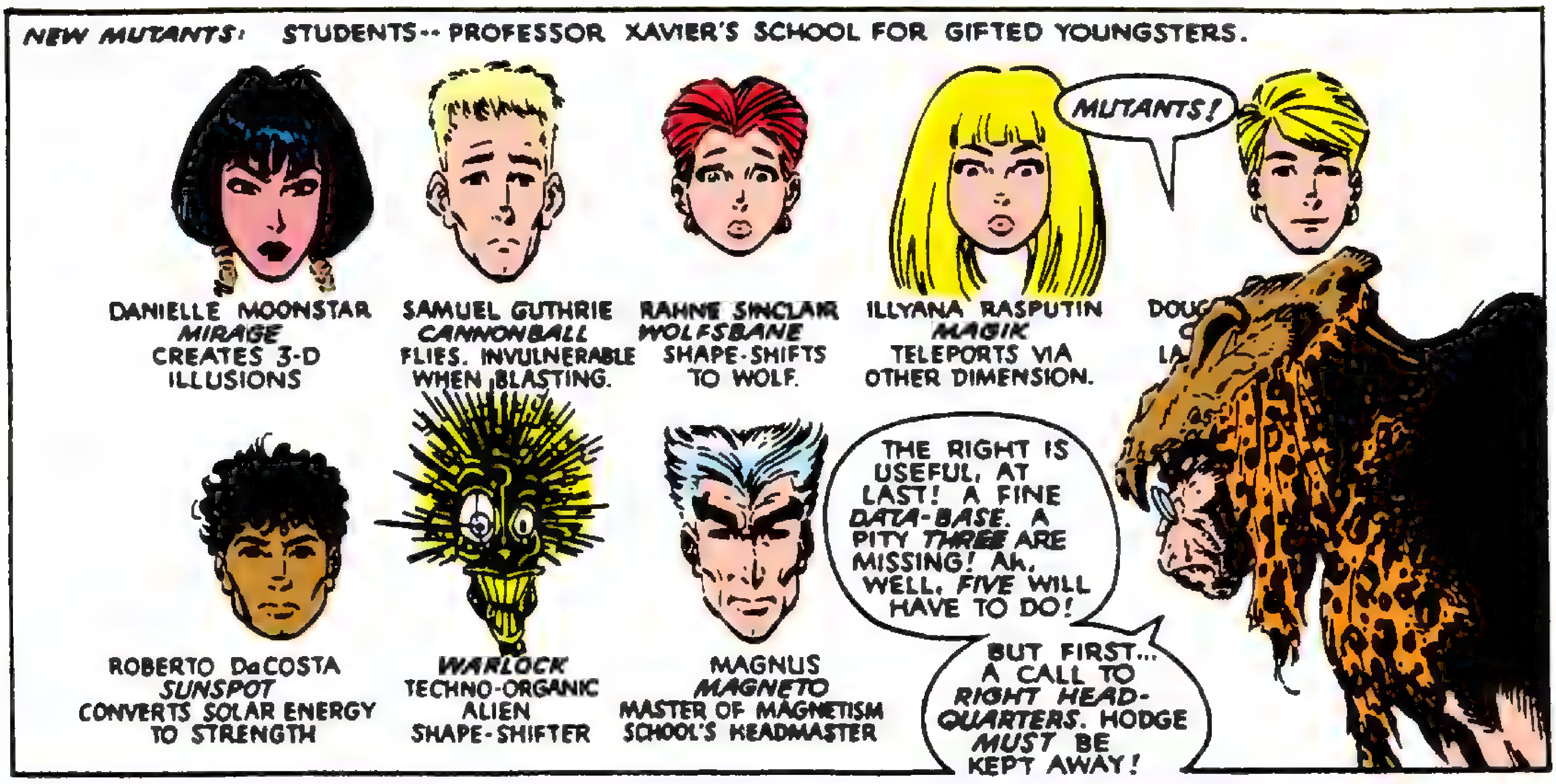
that is fast becoming X-Factor's Hydra. "They're a real tough anti-mutant bunch that's been behind much of the team's problems of late. We'll also see their influence in NEW MUTANTS," Louise said. Not to be outdone by Chris, Louise promises that we'll see a great deal of destruction. A great battle will be waged in, about, and above Manhattan. "When it's all over, the skyline won't be the same." We'll also learn a lot about the Fourth Horseman. Whatever you may have guessed concerning this person, there's more! And Apocalypse loses a Horseman before all is said and done. "No one comes out of this unscathed," Louise said.

Age doesn't matter when death and destruction come calling. Just ask the New Mutants. The pivotal event that sparks their series of adventures revolves around the mysterious Bird Brain and his creator the Animator, an agent of The Right. "The New Mutants return to the island where Bird Brain came from and find a people no one knew he had. We'll learn where he came from and why," explained Louise. "In the face of these events and the events chronologized in the other books, the New Mutants will have to make some hard decisions about the world and their place in it. And one of their group is going to die." But the bad things won't end with "The Fall" stories. There is powerful, evil stuff brewing in the White Queen's camp, stuff that will give the New Mutants little time to mourn.

Be on the lookout for the middle issues in "The Fall of the Mutants" epic. X-MEN #226, NEW MUTANTS #60, and X-FACTOR #25 will be double-sized volumes containing twice as much excitement and even more insights into the events that promise to change the mutant world. "And all of this is just the beginning," explained Louise. "Wait until you see what we've got planned for *next* summer!"


SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!
SHWIPP!
You WISSSSSH!


NEW MUTANTS: STUDENTS -- PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
MUTANTS!
DANIELLE MOONSTAR MIRAGE CREATES 3-D ILLUSIONS
SAMUEL GUTHRIE CANNONBALL FLIES. INVULNERABLE WHEN BLASTING.
RAHNE SINCLAIR WOLFSBANE SHAPE-SHIFTS TO WOLF.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN MAGIK TELEPORTS VIA OTHER DIMENSION.
DOU
C
LA
ROBERTO DaCOSTA SUNSPOT CONVERTS SOLAR ENERGY TO STRENGTH
WARLOCK TECHNO-ORGANIC ALIEN SHAPE-SHIFTER
MAGNUS MAGNETO MASTER OF MAGNETISM SCHOOL'S HEADMASTER
THE RIGHT IS USEFUL, AT LAST! A FINE DATA-BASE. A PITY THREE ARE MISSING! Ah, WELL, FIVE WILL HAVE TO DO!
BUT FIRST... A CALL TO RIGHT HEAD-QUARTERS. HODGE MUST BE KEPT AWAY!

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Have you registered your mutant powers? Inserted in copies of X-FACTOR #23, THE NEW MUTANTS #58, and X-MEN #224 was a three-part Mutant Registration Form. Just like the mutants in the Marvel Universe, you have a chance to register your name and power with a higher authority (in this case Marvel Comics). Also included on the three-part insert is a brief word about the Mutant Registration Act and a checklist of all books taking part in "The Fall of the Mutants" storyline (another good reason to find the form).

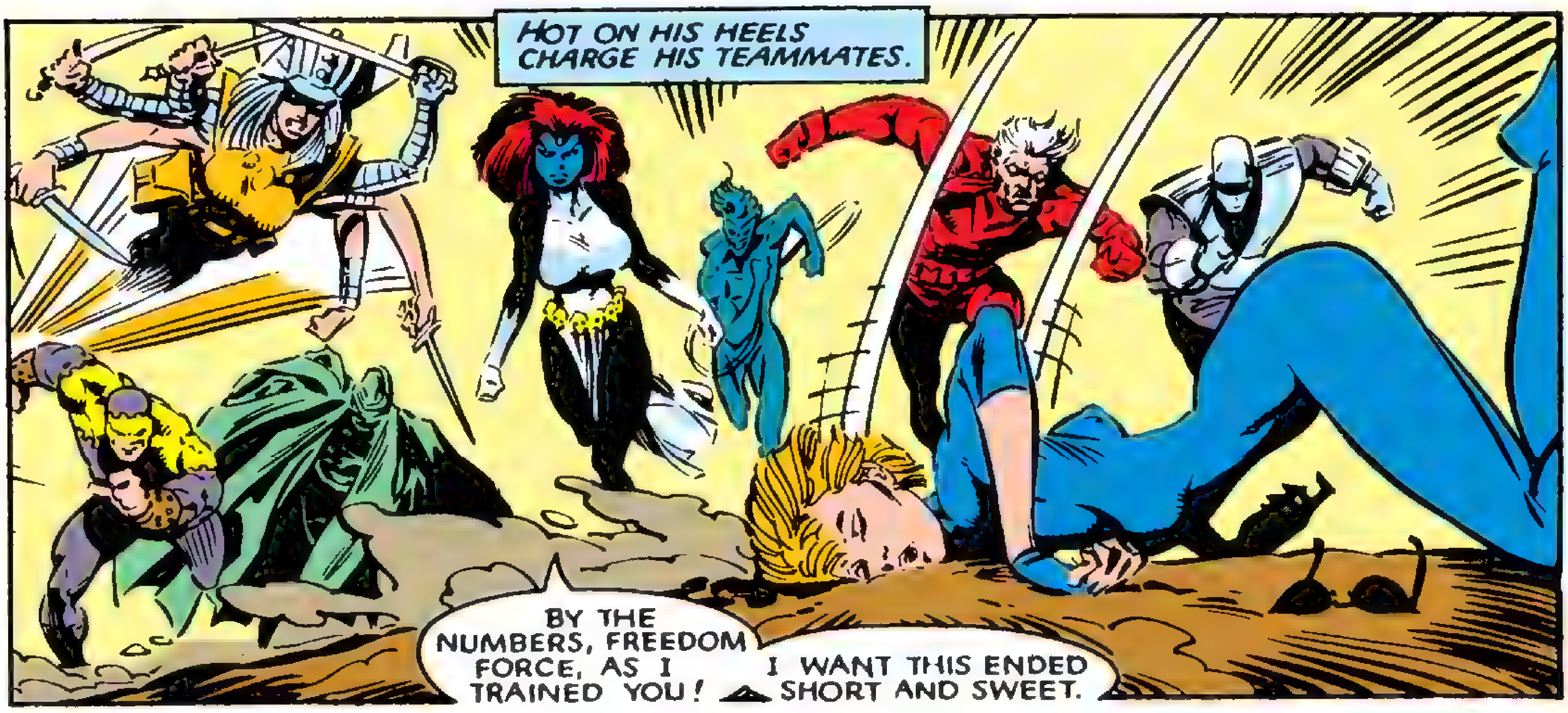
Have you filled out your form? If not, there's still time if you hurry. Just write your name, address, and mutant power in the appropriate spaces and mail it in. One card will be picked at random and that lucky individual will appear in one of the mutant books. "I think this idea is tremendous fun," said Louise Simonson, writer of NEW MUTANTS and X-FACTOR. "I volunteered to write the story that features the winner. And it won't be just a cameo shot. It will be a big, full-issue story."

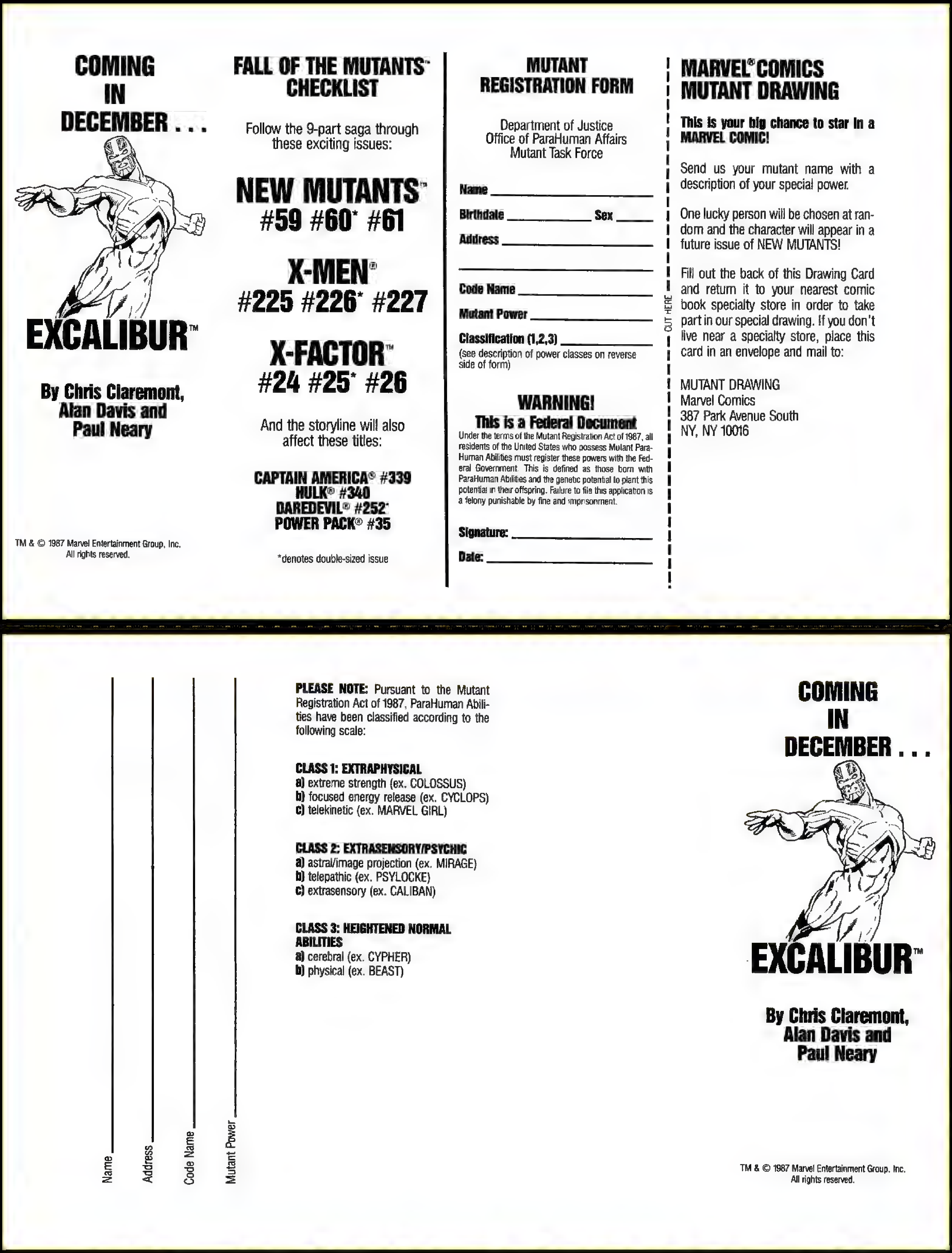
But if you feel that Mutant Registration isn't the American way, you can attend one of the many Anti-Mutant Registration Parties taking place at local comic shops all over the country. If your comic shop isn't planning one of these fantastic events, tell them they're making a mistake and to contact their Marvel representative for more information.

And be on the lookout for the official "Fall of the Mutants" 22" × 34" retail promotional poster. Titled "It's Always Darkest . . .", the poster features a large number of heroes from the three mutant books and is illustrated by Alan Davis and Paul Neary.

The Fall of the Mutants. What an interesting time of year!

—Bill Slavicsek


HOT ON HIS HEELS CHARGE HIS TEAMMATES.
BY THE NUMBERS, FREEDOM FORCE, AS I TRAINED YOU!
I WANT THIS ENDED SHORT AND SWEET.



COMING
IN
DECEMBER . . .

EXCALIBUR™

By Chris Claremont,
Alan Davis and
Paul Neary

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FALL OF THE MUTANTS™ CHECKLIST

Follow the 9-part saga through these exciting issues:

NEW MUTANTS™
#59 #60* #61

X-MEN®
#225 #226* #227

X-FACTOR™
#24 #25* #26

And the storyline will also affect these titles:

CAPTAIN AMERICA® #339
HULK® #340
DAREDEVIL® #252*
POWER PACK® #35

*denotes double-sized issue

MUTANT REGISTRATION FORM

Department of Justice
Office of ParaHuman Affairs
Mutant Task Force

Name ______________________

Birthdate ____________ **Sex** ______

Address ______________________

____

Code Name ______________________

Mutant Power ______________________

Classification (1,2,3) ______________
(see description of power classes on reverse side of form)

WARNING!
This is a Federal Document

Under the terms of the Mutant Registration Act of 1987, all residents of the United States who possess Mutant Para-Human Abilities must register these powers with the Federal Government. This is defined as those born with ParaHuman Abilities and the genetic potential to plant this potential in their offspring. Failure to file this application is a felony punishable by fine and imprisonment.

Signature: ______________________

Date: ______________________

CUT HERE

MARVEL® COMICS MUTANT DRAWING

This is your big chance to star in a MARVEL COMIC!

Send us your mutant name with a description of your special power.

One lucky person will be chosen at random and the character will appear in a future issue of NEW MUTANTS!

Fill out the back of this Drawing Card and return it to your nearest comic book specialty store in order to take part in our special drawing. If you don't live near a specialty store, place this card in an envelope and mail to:

MUTANT DRAWING
Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
NY, NY 10016

Name ______________________

Address ______________________

Code Name ______________________

Mutant Power ______________________

PLEASE NOTE: Pursuant to the Mutant Registration Act of 1987, ParaHuman Abilities have been classified according to the following scale:

CLASS 1: EXTRAPHYSICAL
a) extreme strength (ex. COLOSSUS)
b) focused energy release (ex. CYCLOPS)
c) telekinetic (ex. MARVEL GIRL)

CLASS 2: EXTRASENSORY/PSYCHIC
a) astral/image projection (ex. MIRAGE)
b) telepathic (ex. PSYLOCKE)
c) extrasensory (ex. CALIBAN)

CLASS 3: HEIGHTENED NORMAL ABILITIES
a) cerebral (ex. CYPHER)
b) physical (ex. BEAST)

COMING
IN
DECEMBER . . .

EXCALIBUR™

By Chris Claremont,
Alan Davis and
Paul Neary

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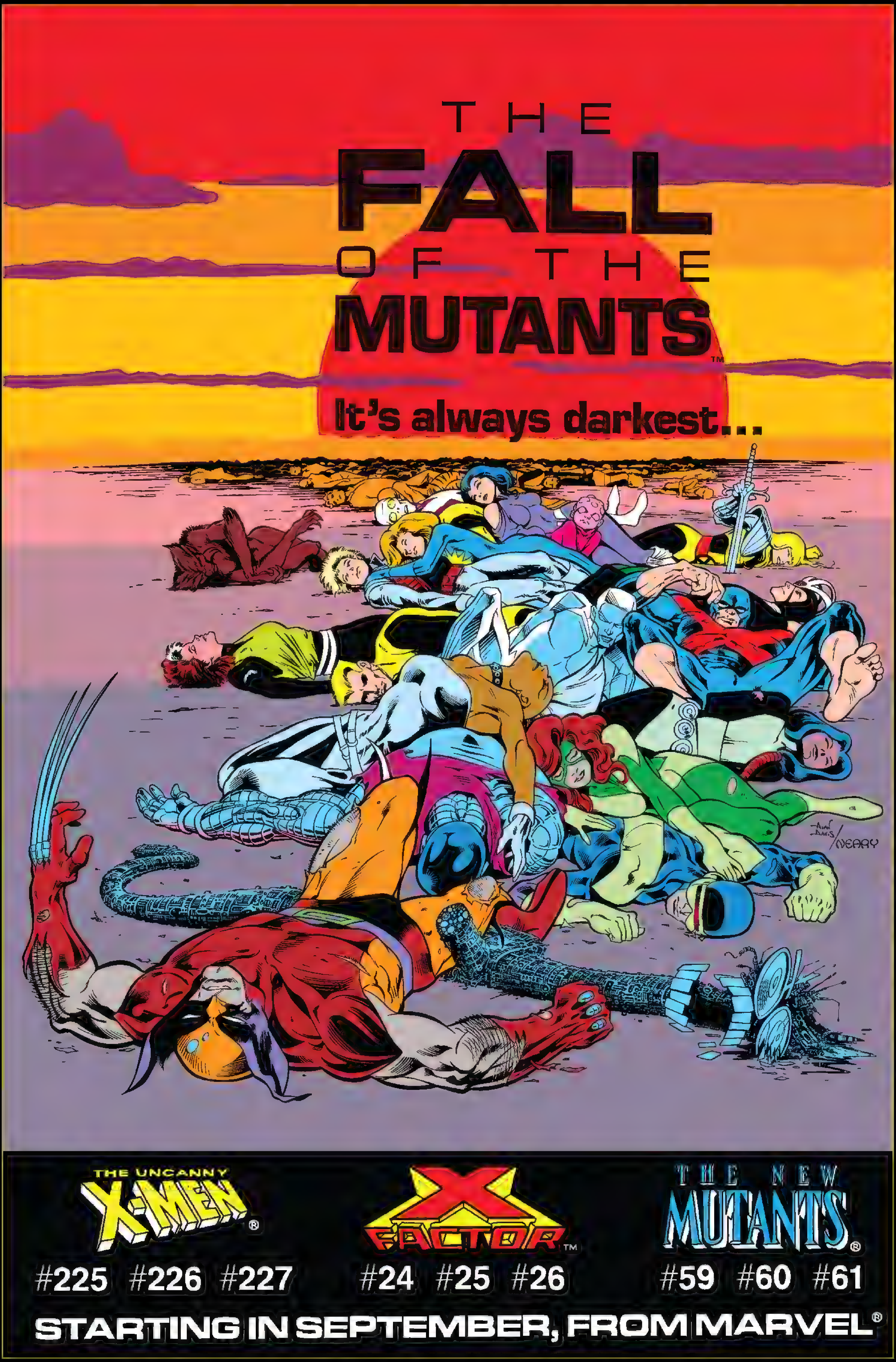
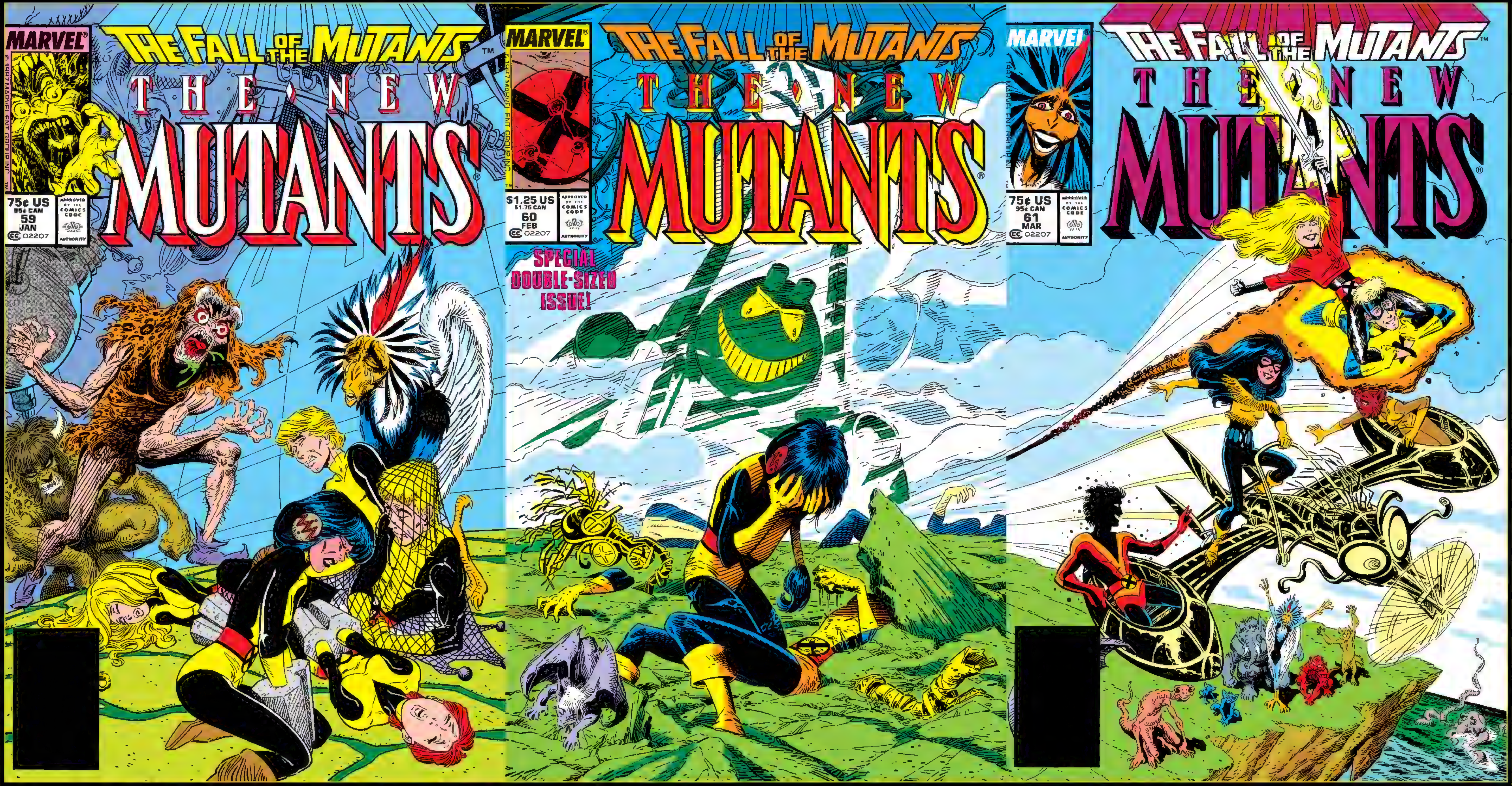
"MUTANT REGISTRATION ACT" CONTEST CARD, INCLUDED IN *NEW MUTANTS #58* AND OTHER X-BOOKS DATED DECEMBER 1987. THE WINNING CONTESTANT, A CHARACTER CALLED ALCHEMY, ENDED UP DEBUTING IN *X-FACTOR #41-42* (JUNE-JULY 1989) INSTEAD OF THE *NEW MUTANTS* ISSUE MENTIONED HERE.


THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS™
It's always darkest...
ALAN DAVIS/NEARY
THE UNCANNY X-MEN®
#225 #226 #227
X-FACTOR™
#24 #25 #26
THE NEW MUTANTS®
#59 #60 #61
STARTING IN SEPTEMBER, FROM MARVEL®

SUMMER 1987 "FALL OF THE MUTANTS" HOUSE AD BY ALAN DAVIS & PAUL NEARY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THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS
THE NEW MUTANTS
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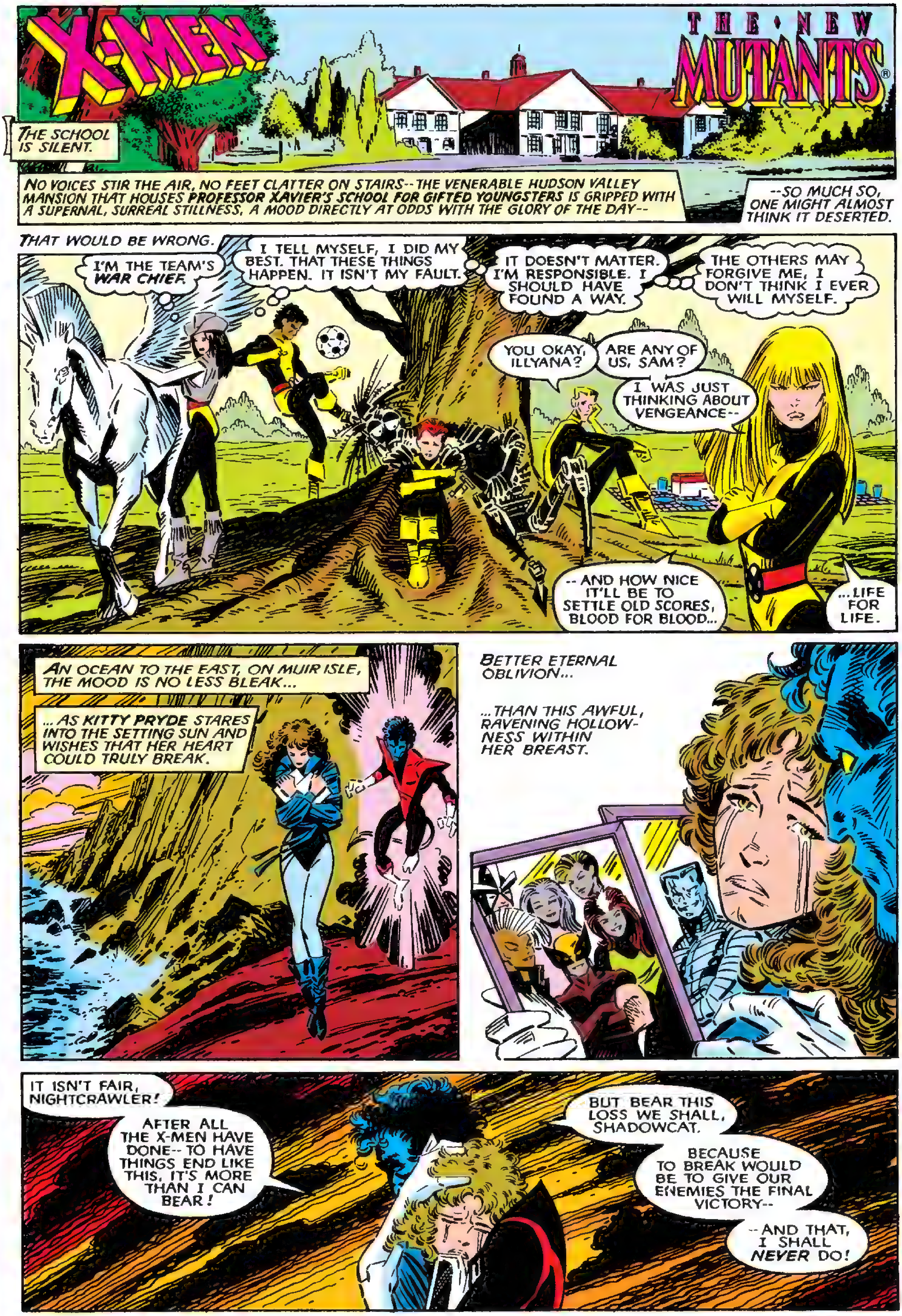
SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!
MARVEL
THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS
THE NEW MUTANTS
75¢ US
95¢ CAN
61
MAR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

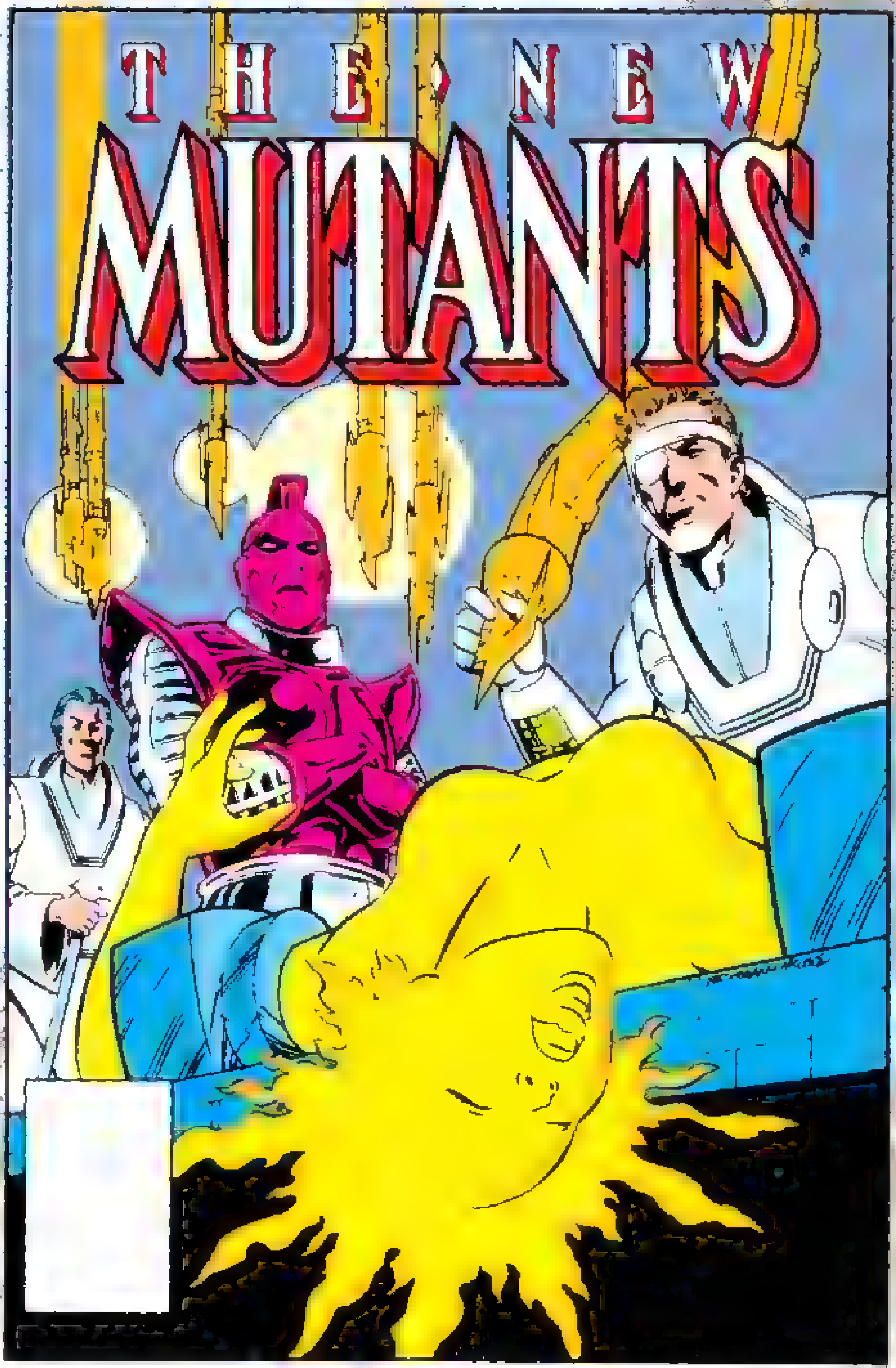
NEW MUTANTS #59-61'S COVERS COMBINE TO FORM ONE LONG IMAGE. ART BY BRET BLEVINS & TERRY AUSTIN


X-MEN
THE NEW MUTANTS
THE SCHOOL IS SILENT.
NO VOICES STIR THE AIR, NO FEET CLATTER ON STAIRS-- THE VENERABLE HUDSON VALLEY MANSION THAT HOUSES PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IS GRIPPED WITH A SUPERNAL, SURREAL STILLNESS, A MOOD DIRECTLY AT ODDS WITH THE GLORY OF THE DAY--
--SO MUCH SO, ONE MIGHT ALMOST THINK IT DESERTED.
THAT WOULD BE WRONG.
I'M THE TEAM'S WAR CHIEF.
I TELL MYSELF, I DID MY BEST. THAT THESE THINGS HAPPEN. IT ISN'T MY FAULT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M RESPONSIBLE. I SHOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY.
THE OTHERS MAY FORGIVE ME, I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL MYSELF.
YOU OKAY, ILLYANA?
ARE ANY OF US, SAM?
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT VENGEANCE--
-- AND HOW NICE IT'LL BE TO SETTLE OLD SCORES, BLOOD FOR BLOOD...
...LIFE FOR LIFE.
AN OCEAN TO THE EAST, ON MUIR ISLE, THE MOOD IS NO LESS BLEAK...
...AS KITTY PRYDE STARES INTO THE SETTING SUN AND WISHES THAT HER HEART COULD TRULY BREAK.
BETTER ETERNAL OBLIVION...
...THAN THIS AWFUL, RAVENING HOLLOWNESS WITHIN HER BREAST.
IT ISN'T FAIR, NIGHTCRAWLER!
AFTER ALL THE X-MEN HAVE DONE-- TO HAVE THINGS END LIKE THIS, IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!
BUT BEAR THIS LOSS WE SHALL, SHADOWCAT.
BECAUSE TO BREAK WOULD BE TO GIVE OUR ENEMIES THE FINAL VICTORY--
--AND THAT, I SHALL NEVER DO!

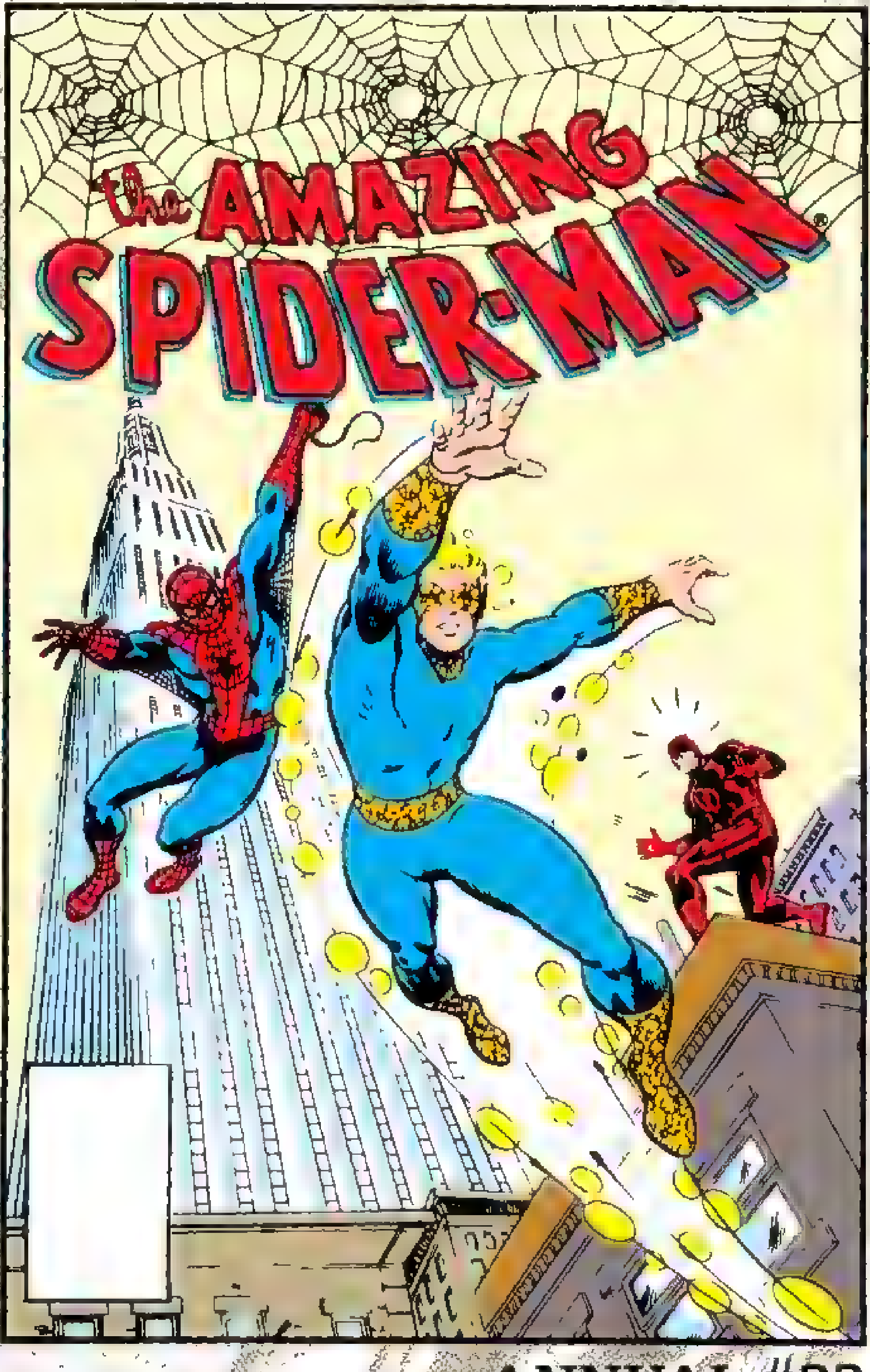
X-MEN PROMOTIONAL SCENE FROM *MARVEL AGE ANNUAL #3*, SET IN THE AFTERMATH OF "FALL OF THE MUTANTS"

WRITER: CHRIS CLAREMONT • PENCILER: MARC SILVESTRI • INKER: TERRY AUSTIN • COLORIST: GREGORY WRIGHT
LETTERER: TOM ORZECHOWSKI • ASSISTANT EDITOR: DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN • EDITOR: JIM SALICRUP

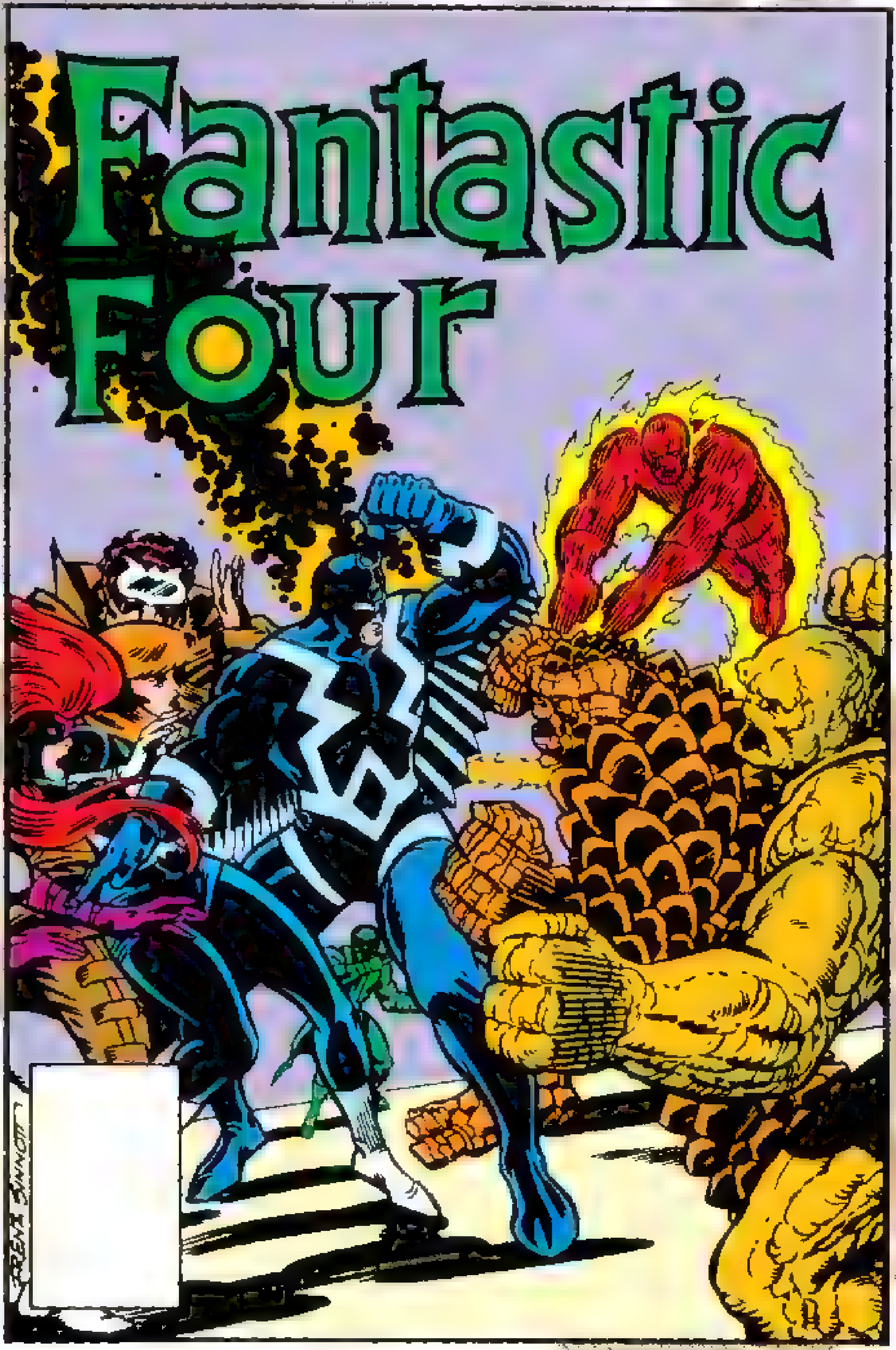
THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR™


THE NEW MUTANTS

ANNUAL #4


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ANNUAL #22


Fantastic Four

ANNUAL #21

**ON SALE
THIS MONTH
FROM MARVEL®!**

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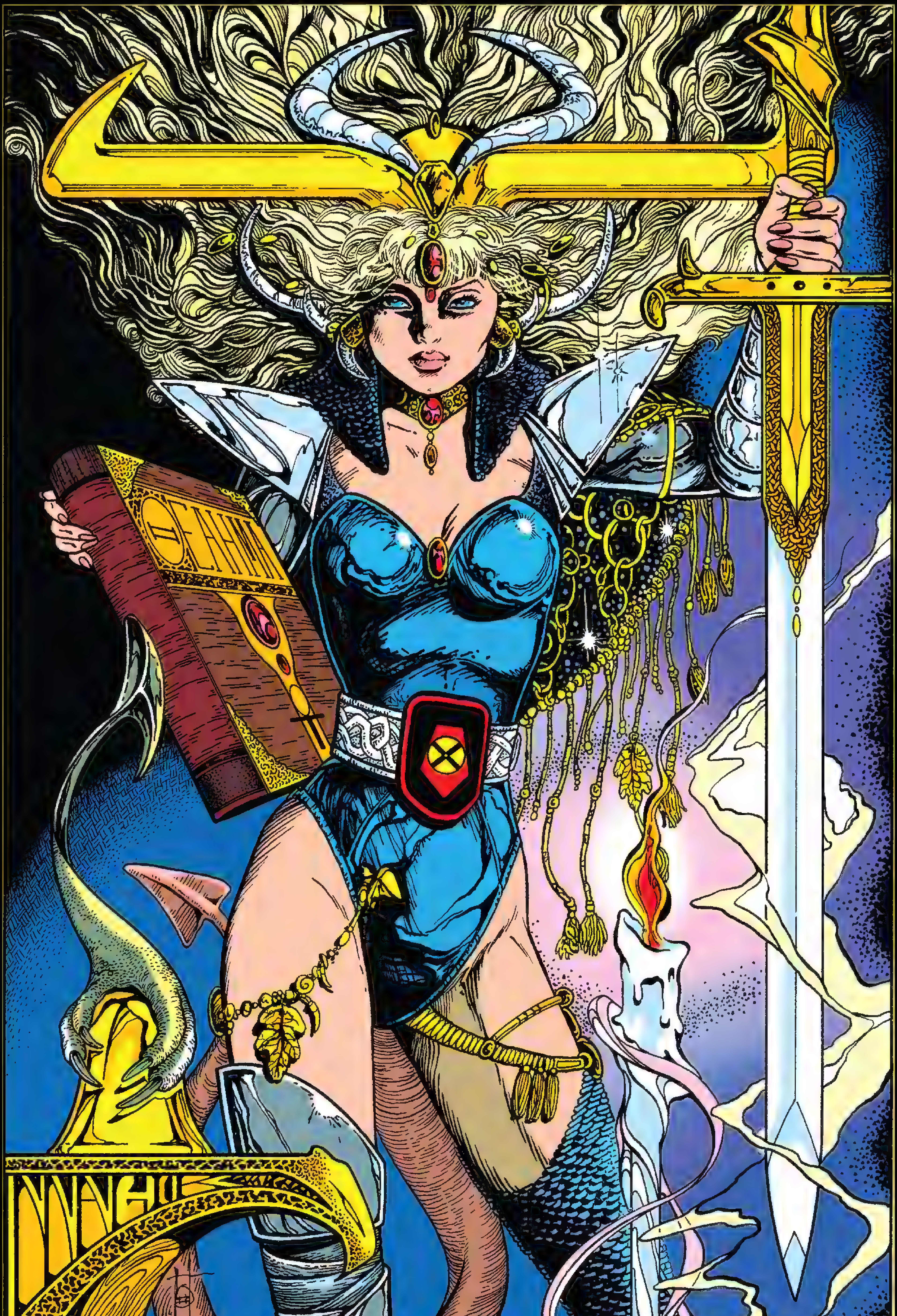
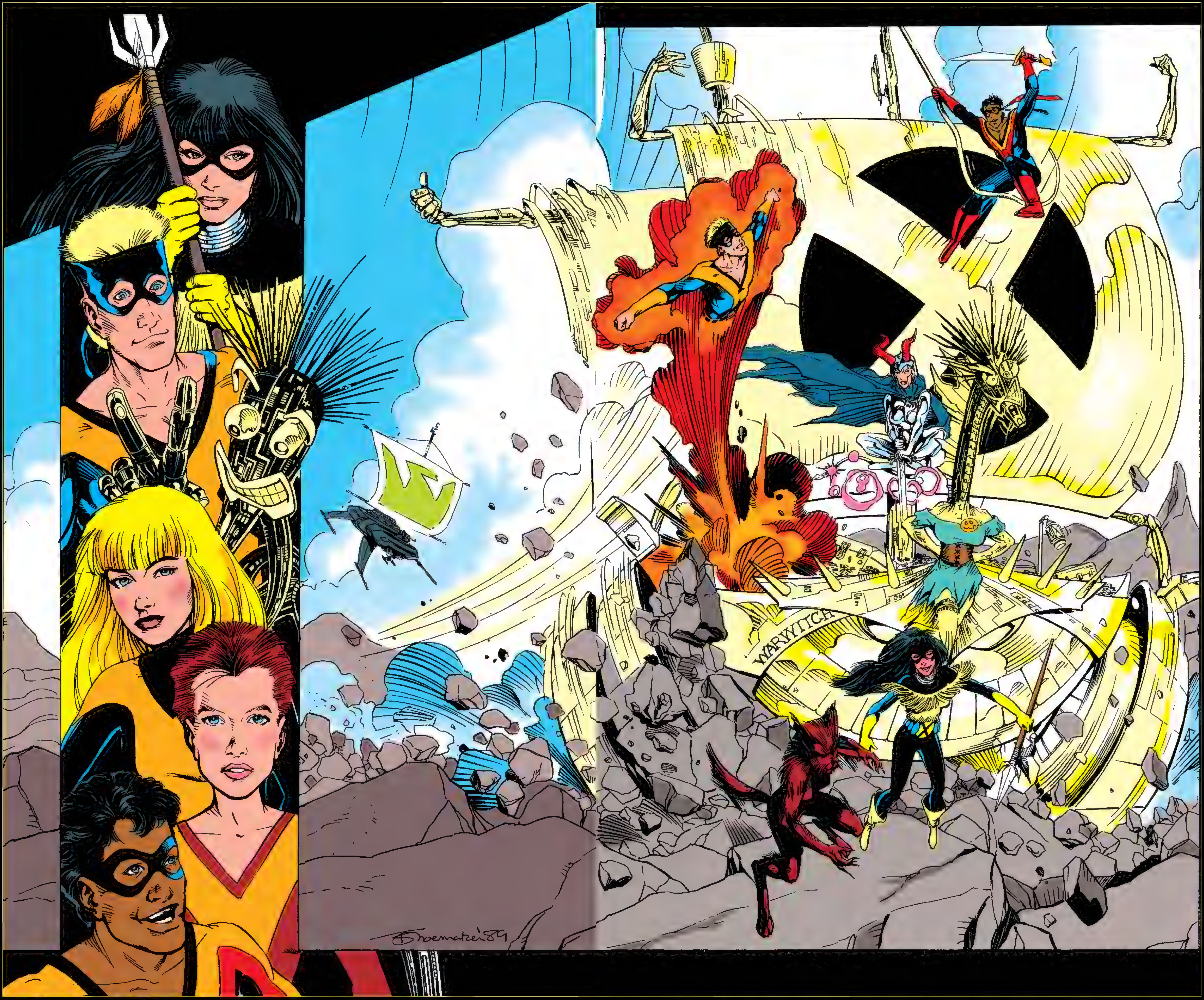
SPRING 1988 "EVOLUTIONARY WAR" HOUSE AD

NEW MUTANTS PROMOTIONAL ART BY BRET BLEVINS, FROM *MARVEL AGE ANNUAL* #4

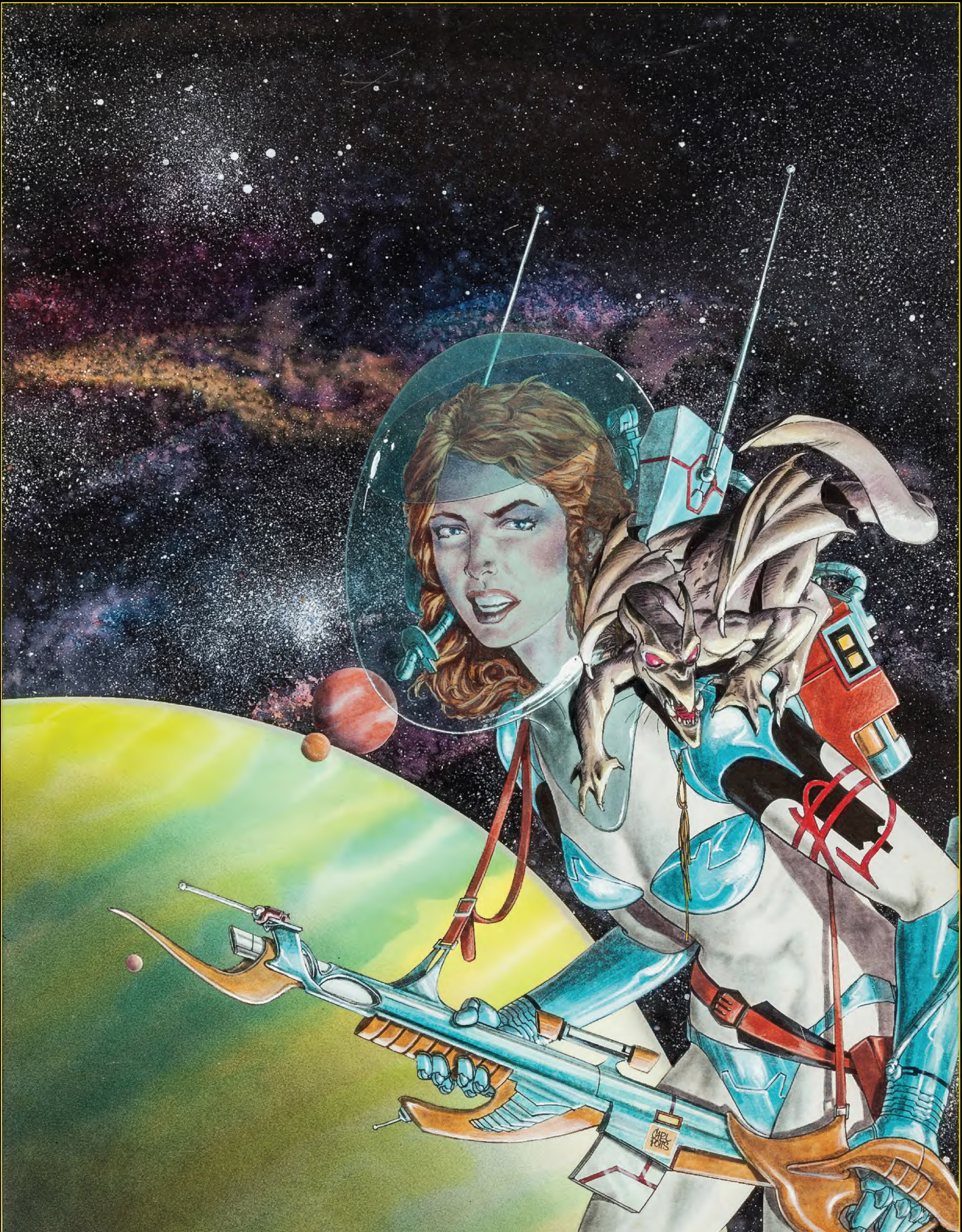


MARVEL FANFARE #38 (JUNE 1988) PINUP BY COLLEEN DORAN & PETRA SCOTESE

MARVEL FANFARE #45 (AUGUST 1989) PINUP BY BILL SIENKIEWICZ


WARWITCH
Shoemaker 89

MARVEL FANFARE #45 (AUGUST 1989) PINUP BY TERRY SHOEMAKER & CHRISTIE SCHEELE



NEW MUTANTS #63 COVER ART BY CARL POTTS
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...IN SPYDER's LAIR!
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YELLOW TS
BLACK TS
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BLUE TS
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MONTH
SCHEDULE
ARTIST

NEW MUTANTS #69 COVER ART BY BRET BLEVINS

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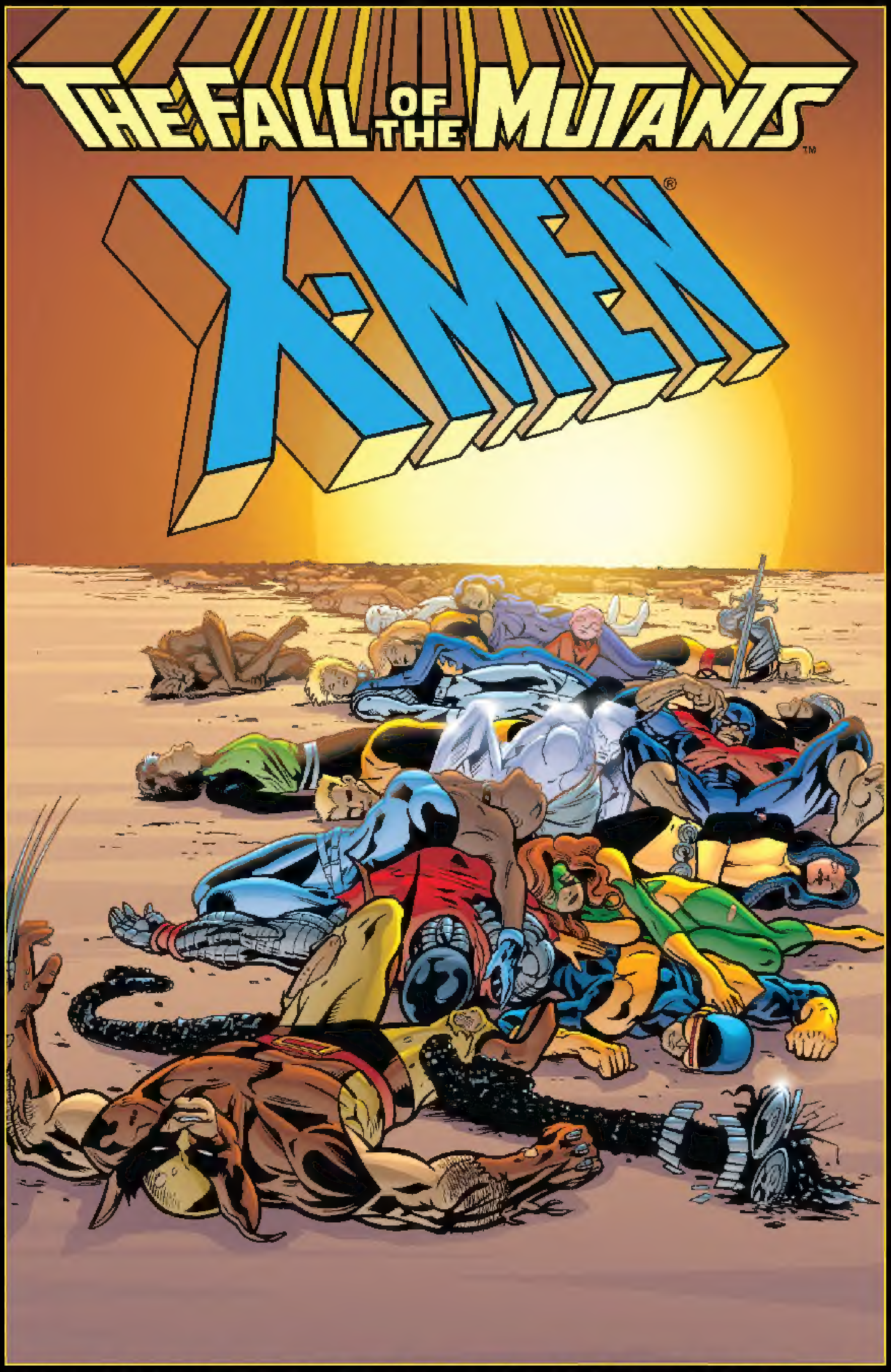
THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS
X-MEN

X-MEN: FALL OF THE MUTANTS TPB (2002) COVER BY
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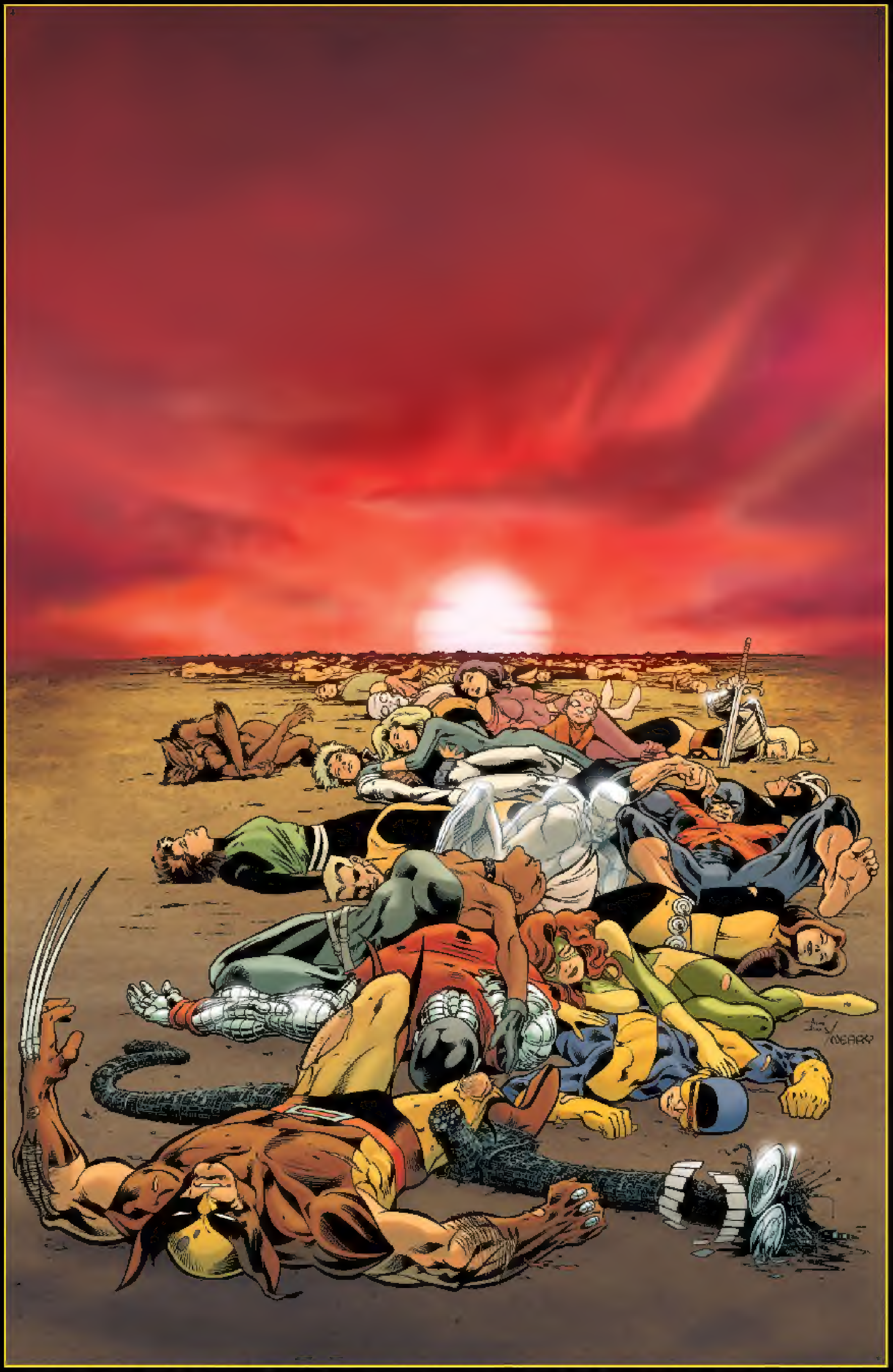
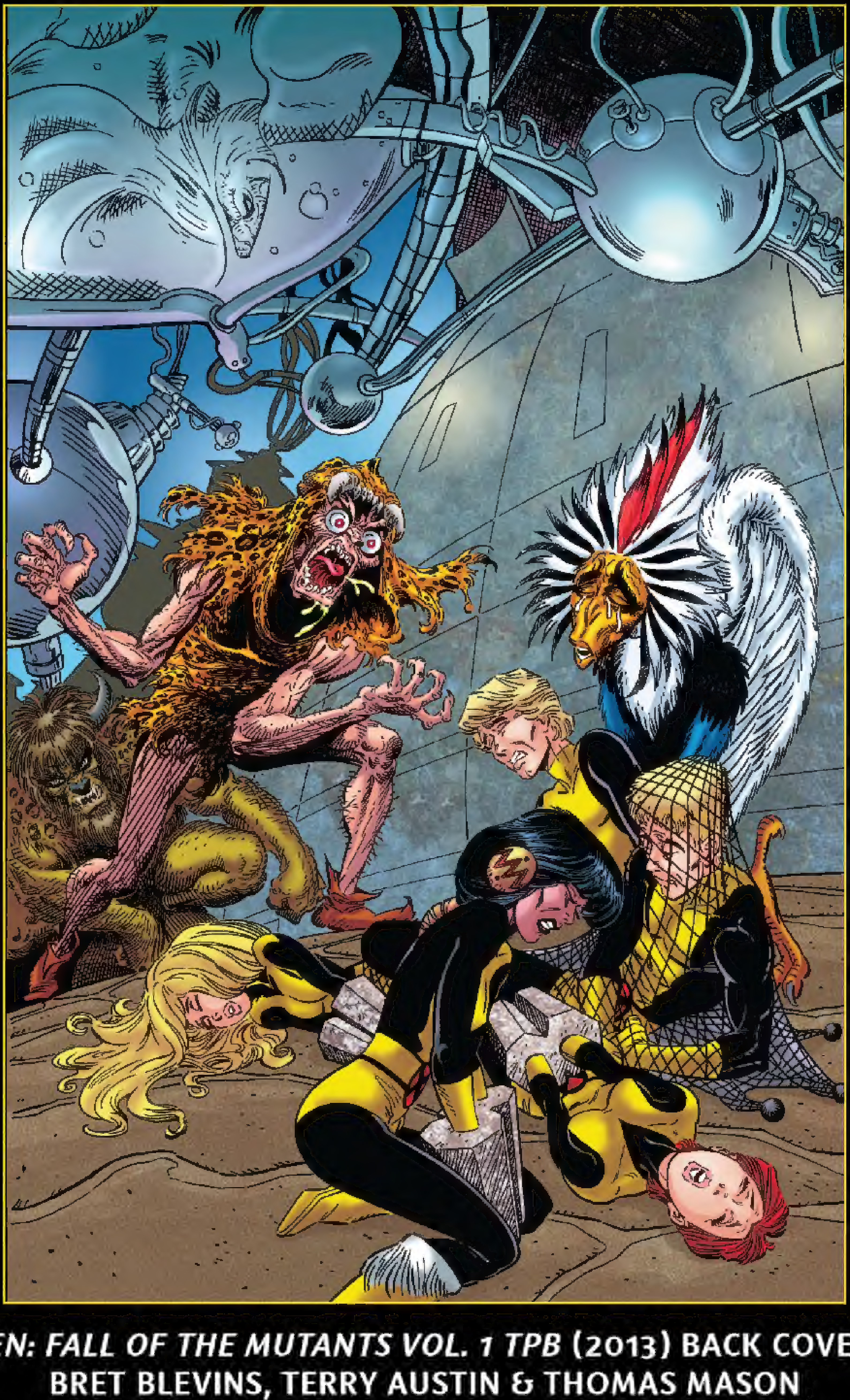
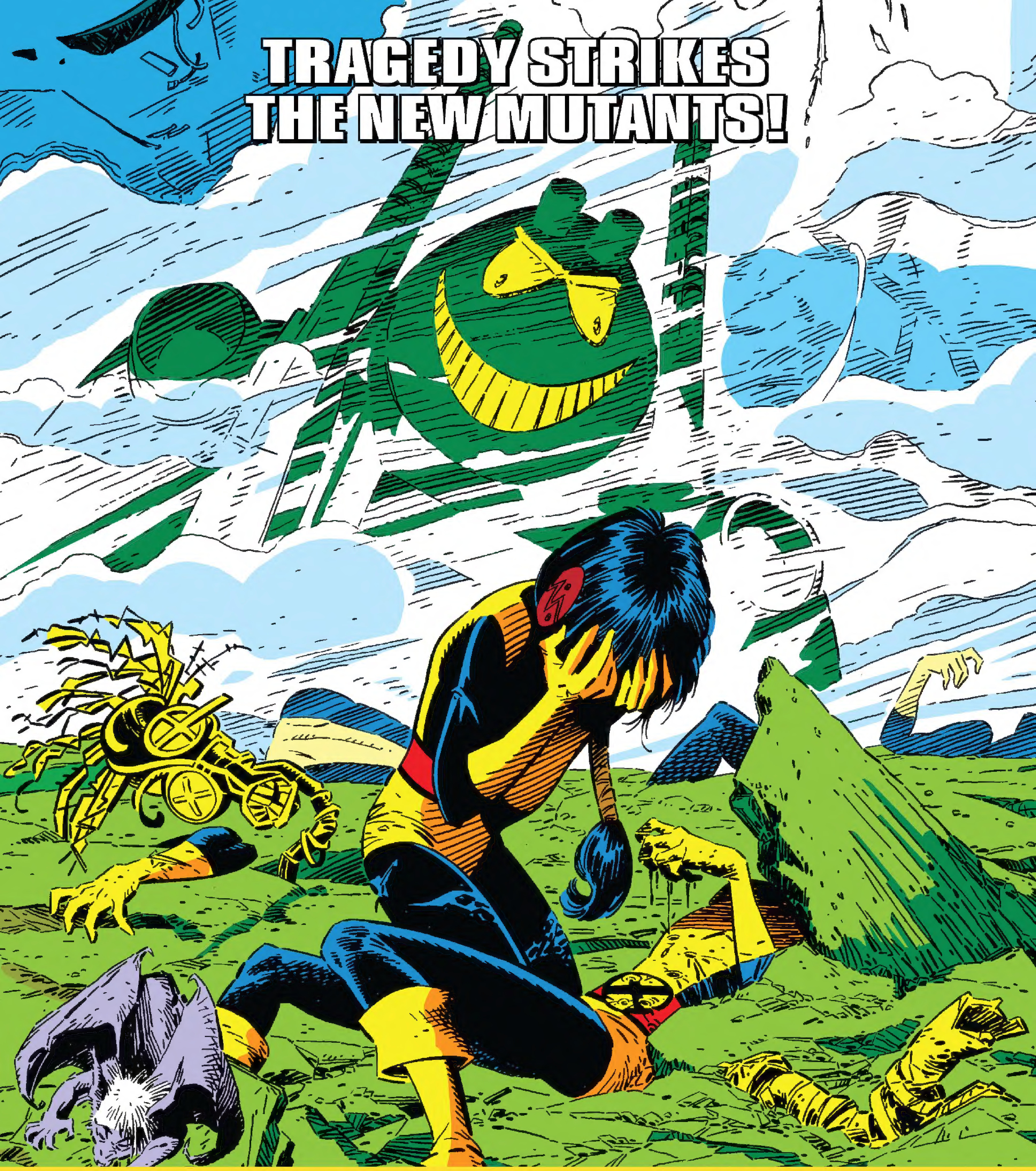


X-MEN: FALL OF THE MUTANTS HC (2011) COVER BY
ALAN DAVIS, PAUL NEARY & JAVIER RODRIGUEZ



X-MEN: FALL OF THE MUTANTS VOL. 1 TPB (2013) BACK COVER BY
BRET BLEVINS, TERRY AUSTIN & THOMAS MASON



Meet Bird-Brain, a bizarre creature who's about to become the team's feathered friend. The New Mutants face off against their rivals, the Hellions, to track down Bird-Brain — but before the quest is done, one of them will switch sides! And there's worse in store for the team as they trace Bird-Brain's origins back to the freak-filled island of the Ani-Mator. Between his weird science and the armored killers of the Right, one of the New Mutants will not return home! Shattered by grief, guilt and loss, how can the team possibly move forward? The New Mutants clash with Freedom Force, and the alluring alien Gosamyr draws the team into an outer space adventure. But as Illyana's rage grows, there's trouble brewing in Limbo…

NEW MUTANTS #55-70 & ANNUAL #4

VOLUME
5
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